

## Guerrillas attack Israeli allies

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas attacked Israel's militia allies with artillery fire, security sources said. The duels came a day after Arab states agreed to attend an 11th round of Middle East peace talks with Israel starting on Tuesday in Washington. The sources said guerrillas fired mortar bombs and anti-tank rockets at two hilltop posts of the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in the south. No one was killed in hills on the Iqlim Al Toufah ridge where guerrillas are active. There was no report of casualties in the retaliatory fire. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, the first since Thursday shelling. Hezbollah and other groups opposed to the Arab-Israeli talks harassed attacks on Israeli or SLA militia on Friday and Saturday, as Arab foreign ministers met in Beirut to plot strategy at the peace negotiations. The groups had vowed to continue firing Karyush rockets into Israel if civilians are hurt by Israeli fire in the south.

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## Daoudieh resigns to contest elections

AMMAN (Petra) — The director of press and public relations at the Royal Court, Mohammad Daoudieh, Sunday tendered his resignation to His Majesty King Hussein in order to run for parliamentary elections, in his home town of Taif. In his letter of resignation, Mr. Daoudieh expressed his gratitude for the "compassion and care" that His Majesty had shown him, and said his time at the Royal court was long enough to discover only some of many virtues that the King has. "It was a great honour to have worked for Your Majesty for 13 months... after which I now realise the secret of your people's love for you," Mr. Daoudieh wrote.

# PLO and Israel on verge of historic deal

Both sides report accord on Gaza-Jericho with differing outlooks  
Agreement is ready, but to be preceded by mutual recognition  
Tunis crisis talks turned into lobby forum despite stiff opposition

### Combined agency dispatches

Faisal Husseini, the overall team leader, would join them later. Israeli Minister also said the Jewish state was on the verge of the agreement with the PLO which could break a deadlock in peace talks and lead two of the Middle East's bitterest foes to recognise each other.

Some Palestinian officials echoed the Israeli assessment but others said the PLO might pull out of the stalled talks unless Israel agreed to a truce and withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called a special cabinet meeting for Monday to vote on part of the agreement, which was reached after secret contacts between Israelis and PLO officials living outside the occupied territories.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres flew to California Friday to discuss the plan with Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Mr. Peres Sunday briefed the cabinet on his talks with Mr. Christopher.

The plan calls for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho during five years of interim self-rule arrangements in the rest of the West Bank.

"We want to turn over a new leaf in relations," PLO official Yasser Arafat told Israel army radio. "We believe that the coming days will witness a positive and an historic development which has been awaited, expected by both people for a long time," he said.

Cabinet ministers would not directly confirm that Israel would recognise the PLO, telling reporters to ask them the same question again after Monday night's meeting. But they left little doubt that talking to the PLO was

far more complicated when they get into the reality of it."

The mere fact that Mr. Peres made the journey to California just four days before negotiations were to resume is an encouraging sign, said Rob Satloff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"Peres wouldn't fly out there if there wasn't substance to discuss," Mr. Satloff said. "It sounds like it's focused on the Gaza-Jericho first plan... the level of optimism coming out of both Israelis and Palestinians is really quite remarkable."

The reports brought immediate howls of protest from Israel's right wing and from the Islamic activists opposed to Mr. Arafat. Both raised the specter of violence.

The Israeli cabinet is expected to vote Monday night on allowing the Israeli team at the peace talks to go ahead with the plan. Mr. Peres is expected to fly to Washington this week to sign it.

Mr. Rabin might also seek a cabinet vote on whether to recognise the PLO since the autonomy agreement could not really proceed without them.

The change comes after months of quiet exploratory meetings between PLO and Israeli officials that culminated last week in the outline of an autonomy plan reached by Mr. Peres and Mahmoud Abbas, a senior PLO official, in a meeting in Washington.

One U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity, seemed to share Mr. Rabin's scepticism. "A casual observer would say, 'it looks like they're down to police security issues and financial issues,'" the official said. Referring to the procedural details of the Gaza-Jericho deal, "Mr. Kaddoumi said in Amman.

Mr. Rabin was circumspect in a Sunday newspaper interview: "There was progress in the talks with the Palestinians. We'll see if what the Palestinians will be given expression on the negotiations in Washington."

Cabinet ministers would not directly confirm that Israel would recognise the PLO, telling reporters to ask them the same question again after Monday night's meeting. But they left little doubt that talking to the PLO was

needed for a breakthrough.

"If the people of the PLO will contribute to peace, we will talk with them," said Health Minister Chain Ramon after Sunday's cabinet meeting that focused on the details of the autonomy plan.

Mr. Rabin's office declined comment on recognition.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the second most important component of the PLO after Mr. Arafat's Fatah, called the Gaza-Jericho option a "trick."

PFLP Deputy Secretary General Abu Ali Mustapha claimed it would not guarantee Palestinians' rights and would allow Israeli forces to retain security control.

The agency said that during the telephone conversation, the King assured Mr. Arafat of Jordan's support for "the independent Palestinian will" in making decisions.

The call came after Jordanian officials had expressed dissatisfaction with the Palestinians for the lack of consultation over the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) acceptance of the Gaza-Jericho option.

But in commenting on Sunday's contact between the two leaders, Minister of Information Ma'n Abu Nowar told the Jordan Times the King's assurance to Mr. Arafat that Jordan would support independent decisions by the Palestinians reaffirms Jordan's stand in support of the struggle for their national rights.

Agency France Press had earlier quoted an unidentified Jordanian official as saying that Jordan has security con-

## Jordan respects 'independent Palestinian will,' King to Arafat

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter



cerns about the Gaza-Jericho option so that we would not be surprised by any developments related to it." But no matter what the Palestinians' stand towards consultation with Jordan is, "we will continue to support them and consult with them," Dr. Abu Nowar said.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan said that Jordan had no accurate data on the Gaza and Jericho option and could not therefore comment on it.

"Jordan can comment or take stand on the option only when it is informed of all its details," Petra quoted Mr. Hassan as saying.

Husseini, were opposed to.

Mr. Khaled said endorsement of the option was "a dangerous gamble" and, in a reference to Mr. Arafat, said it was "a dream cherished by some who are totally unaware of the reality of Israeli-American intentions and plans."

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### Delegation leaves for Washington

## King welcomes Sheik Zayed's call for healing Arab differences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday welcomed a call by United Arab Emirates General Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan to end inter-Arab differences and restore Arab solidarity on a new basis.

King Hussein, in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that "such a responsible attitude was expected from Sheikh Zayed, one of the Arab leaders who have consistently exerted efforts towards Arab solidarity and unity."

The King was commenting on public remarks made by Sheikh Zayed, who was shown on Jordan Television, saying that the disarray in Arab ranks in the wake of the Gulf crisis was not acceptable.

Sheikh Zayed called for Arab unity and said that every Arab should support and help other Arabs.

"We are all in Arab League ... but every one of us operates on his own without (the approval) of his brethren and thus, is un-

acceptable," Sheikh Zayed said. "One should not make enemies or friends on his own without taking the opinion of his brethren and their approval," he said.

"We are brothers and we should believe in such a relationship," he said.

At least on two occasions in the last two years, Sheikh Zayed has publicly called for healing the Arab wounds caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and launched an initiative to settle inter-Arab differences.

According to Arab diplomatic sources, the UAE was among the first Arab countries to extend support for an Arab League-initiated push to reconcile Arab countries split over the Gulf crisis early this year.

The initiative failed to get off the ground after Kuwait vetoed it, but reports from Cairo say that Dr. Esmat Abdul Meguid, the League secretary-general, has not given up the idea, which was reported to have the outright support of a majority of the 21

members of the league.

In his comments carried by Petra, the King also referred to the issue of Jerusalem.

The Holy City "has always been our major preoccupation and it had been so with my father and grandfathers," he said. "Jerusalem is the first of the two kiblas ... and the land of Isra'il Miraj [the nocturnal journey of the Prophet Mohammad]."

"We realise the dangers surrounding us and the attempts aimed at obliterating our Islamic and Arab identity," he said.

"This makes it incumbent upon us to shoulder responsibility towards Jerusalem in realisation of our Islamic faith and the principles of the Great Arab Revolt."

"It also embodies our national and humanitarian duty."

On Saturday, King Hussein instructed the government to allocate money to rebuild an ancient wood podium inside Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque, set on fire in 1969.

Saladdin's podium, built in the Syrian town of Aleppo, was



Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan brought to Jerusalem by Muslim armies after the Muslim warrior and an Ayyubid Sultan of Egypt retook the Holy City from the Crusaders in the 11th century.

"I instruct you now to instruct the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and the commission in charge of restoring the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock ... to rebuild Saladdin's podium in its true form," King Hussein said in a letter to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Various Islamic organisations said it would take several years of work and JD 3 million to build a podium similar to the burnt one.

## Islamic Action Front to take part in elections in 'full force'

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) will contest the next parliamentary elections with "full force" even though its leaders are convinced that their performance in the polls might not be truly reflective of grassroots support for the Islamists in the country.

"We will exert the greatest possible effort to carry the largest number of (our) candidates to Parliament," IAF president Ishaq Al Farhan told a press conference Sunday.

But the results of the elections would not reflect the "size" of the Islamists' support in the country because of the "restrictions" on the means of expressing this support, said IAF deputy president and former Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdullah Akaleh.

"The first of these limitations are imposed by the (new) election law," Dr. Akaleh said. "The real size of the Islamists can only be seen in a real democracy."

Dr. Farhan said that although

the IAF believes the electoral changes, introduced unilaterally by the government earlier this month, were tailored to weaken its performance in the elections for the 12th Parliament, it has decided to participate in the polls to protect "the stability and higher interests of the country."

"His Majesty King Hussein's commitment to the holding of fair and free elections was among the motives to participate in the elections," Dr. Farhan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, said.

But while Dr. Farhan said the IAF was still studying the possibility of contesting the legality of the electoral changes in court, in concert with other political parties, Dr. Akaleh ruled out that option as "a waste of time."

"Since the new election law was announced by the King, we see no feasibility for this option. We will not waste time in a useless effort," said Dr. Akaleh, who had served as minister of education in Mudar Badran's coalition government with the

Muslim Brotherhood movement, which is the backbone of the IAF.

The IAF had been the fiercest opponent of electoral changes before they were issued on Aug. 17 but its opposition fizzled out almost immediately after the new temporary election law was announced.

Observers believe the new law will stop the Islamists from repeating the electoral gains they made in 1989 under the bloc-voting system by denying them the opportunity to form alliances with other candidates.

In 1989, the Muslim Brotherhood, whose candidates would contest the coming elections on the IAF ticket, won 23 seats in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament. Observers say the number was disproportionate to the Islamists' actual grassroots support.

The IAF says it opposed the electoral changes due to the "undemocratic" mechanism through which they were introduced. It

(Continued on page 10)

## Jordan fears Palestinian influx in case of Jericho option

By Randa Habib  
Agence France Presse

AMMAN — Jordan fears that an Israeli pull-out from the West Bank town of Jericho as a first step towards Palestinian self-rule could lead to an influx of Palestinians.

A high-ranking official, voicing security concerns for his country, said Amman saw a double risk of a Palestinian exodus in the "Gaza-Jericho first" option proposed by the PLO for the Jericho option without consulting him first.

The official said another factor was that many Palestinians would be tempted to move to Jordan voluntarily in search of better living conditions and work opportunities.

Around 57,000 Palestinians have been stranded in Jordan since 1968 because Israel will not allow them back to the territories it seized in the 1967 Middle East war, he said.

Faced with harsh living con-

"Unless we close the transit gates between the West Bank and Jordan, we don't know how it would be possible to contain an exodus," he said.

King Hussein informed PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat of Jordan's concerns in talks last Tuesday. He also criticised the PLO for proposing the Jericho option without consulting him first.

Mr. Arafat failed to reassure the King, the Jordanian official said. "Jordan should have been consulted not just informed," he stressed.

"Jordan is favourable to an Israeli pull-out from any part of occupied Arab land. But if it is done without previous coordination and preparation, it could lead to a transfer of Palestinian population," he

warned.

King Hussein has shortened an upcoming Asian tour, dropping North Korea and Japan, because of developments in the Middle East peace process, a reliable source said Saturday.

The source said the tour of Thailand, China, Singapore and possibly Indonesia would take place in September rather than late August as expected.

Arab-Israeli peace talks resume Tuesday in Washington, as Israeli and Palestinian sources predict a breakthrough on the Gaza Strip and Jericho as a first step toward Palestinian self-government.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), more than one million Palestinians live in Jordan, or

more than a quarter of the country's population.

Most Palestinians in the West Bank have Jordanian passports but they lost the nationality in 1988 when Jordan cut off the legal and administrative links it held with the territory since 1950.

Jordanian officials said the PLO's failure to inform or consult Amman on its proposals for Palestinian control of Jericho and the Gaza Strip created a crisis of confidence.

"We don't know what is really happening and this worries us," one official said.

He criticised the PLO for negotiating the option with Israel in secret rather than in coordination with the Arab states in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks.

On the Occasion of  
The Prophet's Birthday

ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

and to the Jordanian people

its felicitations and  
most cordial wishes

# Middle East News

## Foreigners travel to east Turkey despite kidnaps

ISTANBUL (R) — Kidnapping of tourists by rebel Kurds in eastern Turkey have deterred most tour companies, but some adventurous travellers still put themselves in harm's way.

"We have had no tour groups this month," said an employee at the Big Urartu Hotel in the eastern city of Van. "We are empty right now, but we do get backpackers from time to time."

The separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) has seized 16 foreigners in the past two months and seven remain in its hands — two Swiss, two Italians, two Germans and a New Zealander.

The guerrillas want the governments concerned to negotiate directly for their release, but the Western countries, accepting Turkey's view of the PKK as a terrorist group, have refused.

Released hostages have told of long forced marches across mountainous terrain with ragged bands of young guerrillas who extorted food from impoverished Kurdish villagers on the way.

The brutal conflict with the PKK, which has cost more than 7,000 lives since 1984, is never mentioned in travel brochures.

The Turkish authorities are reluctant to advertise the risks in the east — in case they inadvertently dampen the lucrative mass tourist trade in Istanbul and sunnier western resorts.

Tourism Minister Abdul Kadir Ates said tour groups could still visit eastern Turkey safely if they gave advance notice to the local authorities who could then arrange security.

"But it is really difficult to tell this to the adventurers who prefer to go there on their own," he told Reuters.

Mr. Ates said 9,000 tourists had visited Van province this year — a tiny fraction of the total of seven million the government hopes will visit Turkey as a whole in 1993.

The region has plenty to lure tourists, especially those excited by wild scenery and historic monuments, as well as Biblical artifacts determined to find traces of Noah's Ark.

Even the experience of being kidnapped is not enough to put off some fundamentalists Christians who hunt. One of the Italians now held hostage, Angelo Pollicino, has been abducted by the PPK before one of his many previous trips to the east.

He never says anything to us," complained an Italian diplomat in Ankara. "He never con-

tacts the consulates in Istanbul or Izmir, but of course he is free to travel."

Travelling overland to the main attractions — the deserted Armenian city of Ani near Kars, Lake Van and the Nemrut Volcano, the colossal statues on Mount Nemrut, Mount Agri (Ararat), the Ishaq Pasha Palace or the rock city of Hasankeyf — requires driving on roads which may just be safe in daytime.

At night PKK guerrillas emerge to stop traffic at impromptu roadblocks and kidnap state-paid village guards or foreigners.

Most, if not all, the 16 foreign kidnap victims were abducted in this way. Apart from four Frenchmen seized from an organised tour bus in July, all were independent travellers.

The appetite for organised tours to the east has all but vanished for the moment. Huseyin Meyman of Tentour, a leading tour company, said demand dried up after the French kidnapping.

A more specialised company, Trek Travel, has stopped taking trekkers to mount Agri and has even stopped taking groups to the Kackar mountains north of the PKK's normal area of activity.

Nevertheless, At Tours, which caters mainly for Americans, was sending a group of 14 to the east on Sunday and was planning 10 more trips in the next two weeks, operator Husnu Mirza said.

Most Western governments strongly advise their nationals to stay away from eastern and southeastern Turkey.

"Do not go there unless on essential business," the British Foreign Office warned last week.

As for the rest of Turkey, it said: "We do not advise against travel to these areas," but noted PKK threats to attack tourist targets in western Turkey, where several bombings have taken place in the last three months.

In London, Mustafa Turkmen, director of the Turkish tourist board for Britain and Ireland, said that despite such warnings, the number of British tourists visiting Turkey in the first eight months of the year was 37 per cent up on 1992.

"Bookings are exceptionally good this year with half a million people travelling to Turkey," said a spokesperson at travel agent Thomas Cook. "It's been very popular with the British because of low holiday brochure prices."



Supporters of fugitive Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed stage an anti-U.S. protest in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

## Somalis stage anti-U.S. protest

**MOGADISHU** (Agencies) — Some 1,000 supporters of Somalia's main warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed demonstrated here Sunday against the U.S. Army presence among U.N. peacekeeping forces.

The protesters gathered at the October 21 Stadium here armed with stones and chanted "Yank go home, long live Aideed."

Gunfire was heard near the stadium. But it was not immediately clear who was shooting. A spokesman for the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) said U.N. forces were not involved.

"We will cut the 400 American soldiers piece by piece like beef," said Abdullahi Hassan, one of the demonstrators.

He was referring to 400 elite U.S. Ranger who arrived here last week amid reports that their mission was to capture the fugitive General Aideed, wanted by the United Nations for allegedly ordering bloody attacks on the peacekeepers.

In another development, the deputy commander of the Indian brigade in the 29-nation U.N. force, Colonel Dinesh Merchant, said his country's contingent will soon be the largest.

India has agreed to send some 4,900 troops to Somalia to reinforce the 24,500-strong force.

The United States has some 4,200 soldiers here.

An advance party of 200 Indian soldiers arrived in Mogadishu on Saturday to set up logistics before the coming of the remaining troops.

The next group of the mainly infantry men will arrive Sept. 14 and the entire force is expected in Mogadishu before Sept. 25. Col. Merchant said.

Col. Merchant told journalists here that the brigade was selected from those soldiers who had served "continuously well" in the army.

He described them as "battle hardened," many of them having fought against the Tamil Tigers when India sent in troops to Sri Lanka in a peacekeeping attempt five years ago.

Most of the Indian soldiers will be deployed in the western town of Belet Huen where part of their brief will be to provide security to German troops doing rehabilitation work there.

Germany's post-war constitution allows German soldiers to use arms only in self-defence.

UNOSOM II Saturday opened Mogadishu airport after closing it to civilian flights for a week citing security reasons, a U.N. military spokesman said.

UNOSOM closed the airport

to all civilian and commercial planes on Aug. 21 saying it was assessing information that gunmen loyal to Gen. Aideed possessed anti-aircraft weapons and were ready to use them against U.N. planes.

But U.N. deputy military spokesman Captain Tim McDavit said after a week's assessment, UNOSOM could not confirm that the militiamen had such weapons.

However, a potential threat to aircraft still exists," Capt. McDavit said.

Meanwhile, the Somali National Alliance (SNA) led by Gen. Aideed in a statement here appealed for a "third party" to help mediate between it and UNOSOM.

The SNA said the mediator could be "eminent persons, organisations, governments or groups of governments."

"It is impossible to conduct dialogue with UNOSOM II while the U.S. and UNOSOM II are jointly engaged in an increasing build-up and offensive against us day after day," the statement said.

The movement said the United Nations and the United States had prepared a "special commando force to launch a genocidal attack on the Somalia population.

## Lawyer claims new evidence against Demjanjuk

**TEL AVIV** (AP) — A lawyer said Sunday he has obtained new evidence placing retired Ohio auto worker John Demjanjuk in Nazi death and concentration camps.

Attorney Shafir Shilansky said he hoped the material would persuade Israel's attorney general, Yosef Harish, to reverse his position and recommend that Mr. Demjanjuk be tried on new Nazi war crime charges.

Mr. Shilansky told the Associated Press he was given new documents and information about witnesses who allegedly place Mr. Demjanjuk as a Nazi guard in the death camp of Sobibor and another location, but refused to elaborate.

Mr. Shilansky said he would meet with Mr. Harish by Monday to present the documents.

In Cleveland, Mr. Demjanjuk's son-in-law, Ed Nishnic, was sceptical and "very unimpressed" with the claim.

These alleged Nazi hunters and lawyers have been for the last two weeks claiming to have new evidence and so far, every piece of their new evidence has fallen apart when faced with any sort of telephone interview.

Mr. Harish recommended earlier this month against a new trial, saying it could raise the danger of double jeopardy. He had also argued that a new trial was not in the public interest because there was no guarantee of conviction.

Israel's supreme court last month overturned Mr. Demjanjuk's 1988 conviction and death sentence as "Ivan the terrible," a guard at the Nazi camp of Treblinka.

The court found there was convincing evidence that Mr. Demjanjuk, 73, belonged to a Nazi guard unit and that he was in the Sobibor camp and several concentration camps.

The judges recommended against a new trial, saying too much time had already lapsed in legal proceedings against Mr. Demjanjuk.

But appeals by holocaust survivors, Nazi hunters and various Jewish groups held up Mr. Demjanjuk's scheduled Aug. 1 deportation at the last minute.

A different supreme court panel rejected their request for a new trial on the Sobibor charges, but the supreme court president gave the petitioners until Thursday to make a final plea for a new Mr. Demjanjuk trial.

Last week, Mr. Shilansky and his law partner said a Sobibor survivor remembered seeing Mr. Demjanjuk at the camp. But Nazi hunters who questioned the woman, Esther Raab, 71, later said they did not believe her testimony would stand up in court.

None of the Sobibor survivors represented by Mr. Shilansky remember Mr. Demjanjuk at the camp. There are several documents that purportedly link Mr. Demjanjuk to Sobibor and other camps. One is an SS identity card in Demjanjuk's name issued at the Trawniki training camp for Nazi guards. It says Mr. Demjanjuk was dispatched to Sobibor in March 1943.

Mr. Demjanjuk has maintained his innocence, saying he spent most of World War II in German camps after being captured as a Soviet soldier in May 1942.

Since his acquittal, Mr. Demjanjuk has been held in protective custody in his isolation cell at Ayalon prison in central Israel.

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 1992

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### King Hassan II to inaugurate most modern mosque

**CASABLANCA** (AFP) — King Hassan II is to inaugurate the world's second largest but most modern mosque Monday, seven years after construction began. Michel Pinseau, the mosque's French architect, told journalists that "following the king's instructions we built a mosque which uses all modern techniques." Built largely on land reclaimed from the sea and designed to withstand the most severe earthquakes, the five billion dirham (\$527 million) mosque with its huge mobile roof, "is bigger than all known cathedrals, including St. Peter's in Rome," Mr. Pinseau said. The Hassan II Mosque, which has a 200-metre high minaret with a 35-kilometre long laser beam aimed at Mecca, will be able to contain 20,000 faithful, including 6,500 women on two mezzanines, while a further 80,000 could pray on the esplanade outside. The central part of the prayer hall can be transformed in five minutes into an open-air patio when the 3,700 square metres of roof slide away. When the area is closed, the hall is softly lit by 56 crystal chandeliers each weighing 1,200 kilograms. Mr. Pinseau said one of the main technical difficulties in building the mosque was to raise the minaret by 25 metres at the king's request.

### Egyptian killed in Kuwait mineclearing

**KUWAIT CITY** (AFP) — An Egyptian mineclearer was killed and two others injured in a blast in northern Kuwait near the Iraqi border. Al Anbaa newspaper said Sunday, Major Osama Higab, 50, died in the explosion Saturday that injured two other soldiers. Two Bangladeshi mineclearers were killed and 10 injured in a similar blast on Aug. 24 in northwest Kuwait. They were among 1,500 Bangladeshis clearing mines left over from the August 1990-February 1991 Iraqi occupation. At least 53 explosives experts from around the world have died while clearing mines in the emirate.

### S. Arabia gave \$50m to PLO since 1990

**RIYADH** (AP) — Donations totalling some \$50 million have been transferred from Saudi Arabia to the Palestine Liberation Organisation since the Gulf crisis, the official Saudi Press Agency said Saturday.

The agency said the figure was disclosed by Abdil Rahim Gammoud, a PLO member who heads the Popular Committee which collects private donations to the PLO made mainly by Palestinians working in the kingdom. The PLO has been ostracised by the Saudi-led group of Gulf Arab countries since its leadership sided with Iraq following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states had been the PLO's main bankrollers. The suspension of the cash flow from these governments has forcing PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to slash the PLO's annual budget of \$300 million by 70 per cent. Private donations and a PLO-decreed five per cent tax on salaries of Palestinians working in Gulf countries have continued. Also, Riyadh has continued to pay \$6 million a month to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

### Peres under fire for breaking Sabbath

**TEL AVIV** (AFP) — The ultra-orthodox Shas Party, a member of Israel's government coalition, slammed Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday for rushing off for peace talks in the United States during the Sabbath. "It's scandalous for a minister to travel on the Sabbath," said Yossi Azran, who threatened to file a no-confidence motion against the government in parliament. Mr. Peres returned Sunday to the fire and brimstone broadside from Orthodox Jews after meeting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in California, over moves to grant the Palestinians autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. Jewish religious law bans any work on the holy day from Friday evening to Saturday evening and is strictly observed by the orthodox.

### Egypt to tighten clampdown on militants

**ABU DHABI** (AFP) — Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfai has vowed to intensify his campaign against radicals despite an assassination attempt on him Aug. 18. General Al Alfai told London-based Middle East Broadcasting Corporation television, monitors here, that he felt better after successful surgery on his injured arm in Switzerland and was planning to return to Cairo in the next few days. "I have not and will never regret being an interior minister," said the former governor of the southern province of Asyut, the hotbed of radicals seeking to overthrow the regime and set up an Islamic state. "The incident has not affected me. On the contrary, I will continue my work and will even intensify it," he said. Five people were killed and 13 injured in the suicide attack on Gen. Al Alfai in central Cairo, claimed by Muslim fundamentalists from the Vanguard of the Conquest organisation. "To those who tried to kill me, I say God will take revenge against you. But I ask you to return to your religion...because what is happening has nothing to do with religion, patriotism and conscience," Gen. Al Alfai said. "To the policemen, I say carry on and do not be frightened. To the Egyptian people I say remain vigilant against those who violate security."

### Newspaper director, editor to stand trial

**TEHRAN** (AFP) — The managing director of Salam newspaper to stand trial before a religious court in Iran following complaints from several high-ranking officials, the daily reported Sunday. Mohammad Mussavi Khoiniha, a former revolutionary prosecutor, will appear in court next Saturday, it said, without giving details of the charges. The report came one day after the radical newspaper said its editor-in-chief, Abbas Abdi, was arrested Thursday on orders from the Islamic revolutionary courts. In Sunday's edition of Salam, Mr. Mussavi called Mr. Abdi's arrest "illegal" because the revolutionary courts had "no mandate to review cases relating to press violations." Salam has stepped up its criticism of the government in recent months and pressed for media freedom. A newspaper, Kayhan, would also have to stand trial following a civil suit filed by Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi. Mendi Nassiri, who wrote two commentaries criticising Mr. Yazdi last month, was summoned to the prosecutor's office on Saturday and released on bail, Kayhan Havaie said.

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fts per kg.
Apple ..... 60/65
Apricots ..... 44/50
Banana ..... 6/6
Carrot ..... 10/10
Cabbage ..... 36/35
Cauliflower ..... 330/220
Cucumbers (large) ..... 200/100
Cucumbers (small) ..... 360/170
Eggplant ..... 100/50
Fig ..... 150/150
Garlic ..... 150/150
Grapes ..... 200/200
Onion (dry) ..... 100/100
Pear ..... 700/700
Peach ..... 440/440
Pear (sweet) ..... 220/220
Potato ..... 240/240
Tomato ..... 240/240
Swede ..... 240/240
Watermelon ..... 150/150

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Doc. "Le Louvre du Dimon à la Pyramide" ..... News in French  
19:15 Sport Magazine ..... News in Hebrew  
20:30 News in Arabic ..... The Golden Girls  
21:18 Thirty Something ..... News in English  
22:00 Sherlock Holmes ..... News in English  
22:20 Hot Fingers ..... News in French

### PRAYER TIMES

Fajr ..... 06:00 (Sunrise) Duha ..... 08:44  
Dhuhr ..... 12:37  
Asr ..... 16:13  
Magrib ..... 19:59  
Isha ..... 22:20

### CHURCHES

# Home News

## Queen to chair meeting on improving status of rural women

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday will chair a meeting with several professionals and specialists in the field of women and rural development at Al Ma'wa Palace.

This meeting constitutes a brain storming session to discuss the implementation in Jordan of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women.

The declaration was adopted at the summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women held by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in February 1992.

The meeting is intended to review how involved institutions in Jordan can best serve to improve the status of rural women, establish networks between and among rural women and organisations, and strengthen rural women's capacity and access to services.

## Interior Ministry to accept voter list contests

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Interior Sunday announced that objections to voter registration lists will be accepted today (Monday) until Sept. 5. The display of these lists, lists of registered voters in different districts in the country, for the next parliamentary elections ended Sunday.

The ministry also set the period from Sept. 6 until Sept. 12 for the committee in charge to look into the objections raised by citizens; the period from Sept. 16 until 18 is limited to contesting decisions in court.

The First Court of Instance will rule on the contestations between the Sept. 25 and 27.

Final voter registration lists will be displayed following the court's ruling.

## Ministry, RSS agree to control air pollution

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Sunday signed an agreement to control air pollution in Hashemite areas in Zarqa Governorate.

Under the agreement, the ministry will provide all facilities needed to implement provisions of the agreement, including the monitoring of sites, where surveillance equipment will be installed.

The ministry will also coordinate field visits and seek necessary information from the concerned authorities.

## Education minister reviews new policy in Mafraq

MAFRAO (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Khalid Al Omari Sunday said the school is the basic educational unit from which the educational development process should start.

During a meeting with education officials and teachers in Mafraq Governorate, Dr. Omari reviewed the new educational policy, saying that the school will be the focus of development, according to the new plan.

The minister said a school-based development committee will be formed to supplement the Educational Development Council which will be formed at education departments.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Princess Basma donates 800 school uniforms

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma has contributed 800 school uniforms to needy girls attending Irbid governorate schools as part of the charity campaign of 1993, according to Nabil Al Rousan, director of the Princess Basma Social Services Centre.

#### Labour minister returns from Indonesia

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Khalid Al Ghzawi Sunday returned to Jordan after a six-day visit to Indonesia, during which he held talks with his Indonesian counterpart and senior Indonesian officials on scopes of bilateral cooperation. In an arrival statement, Mr. Ghzawi said Jordan and Indonesia agreed to form a ministerial team to assess bilateral cooperation over a six-month period in a serious attempt to forge closer cooperation. The minister said that both sides reached an agreement whereby instructors from the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) will be sent for training Indonesian industrial institutions. He described his talks with his Indonesian counterpart as positive and successful.

#### JD 96,420 approved to implement municipal projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan approved the offering of JD 96,420 worth of tenders to implement projects in four local councils. The projects include the construction of four commercial stores in Qasr town in Karak, asphalt roads in Qatraneh, constructing a building for Muqarish Village Council in Karak governorate and buying insecticides for Zarqa municipality.

#### JTV to start traffic awareness series

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Television (JTV) Wednesday Sept. 1 will air the first episode of a traffic awareness series targeted at children and students. The programme was prepared by the Public Security Department (PSD) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The series is designed to promote awareness of traffic regulations and rules and will teach children how to avoid accidents.

## Kingdom celebrates Prophet Mohammad's birth anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Kingdom joins the Islamic World today in celebrating the anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's Birthday.

Prophet Mohammad was born in Mecca in the year 570 to the influential and prestigious tribe of Bani Hashem.

His grandfather had been the head of the tribe and prominent in Mecca politics.

In 599, while on a study journey with his uncle and guardian, Abu Taleb, the Prophet met his first wife Khadijah.

In 610, the Holy Koran was revealed to Prophet Mohammad through the Angel Gabriel.

Islam became the third monotheistic religion and is currently followed by millions of people worldwide.

From that time, at frequent intervals until his death, the Prophet received more revelations, which were collected and inscribed in 650.

The Koran endures today as the divine revelation written in the very words of God himself. Mohammad died in the year 632.

Prophet Mohammad was admired for his courage, resoluteness, and impartiality, and for a firmness that was tempered by generosity.

He won men's hearts by his personal charm. He was gentle, especially with children.

Though he was sometimes silent in thought for the most part he was engaged in purposeful activity.

He walked vigorously and spoke rapidly. He became an exemplar of virtuous character, and stories presented him as realising the Islamic ideal of human life.

Mohammad's chief significance is as founder of a state and of a religion.

In his lifetime he created a federation of Arab tribes which, in less than 20 years after his death, defeated the Byzantine and Persian empires, occupied a vast territory from Libya to Persia, and then developed into the Arab, or Islamic Empire.

He made the religion of Islam the basis of Arab unit.

Islamic doctrine maintains that God is the founder of the religion, not Mohammad, but he played an obviously important part in fostering the nascent religion.

His concern with ultimate questions, his mystical outlook, and his moral seriousness were important adjuncts to the preaching of the Koranic message.

Addressing a celebration Sunday on behalf of His Majesty

King Hussein, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi said the Prophet spent the major part of his time praying and reading the Koran and left to the Islamic world a huge wealth of knowledge and sciences.

The second speaker at the celebration was Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Spour who said the Prophet had directed special attention to social welfare. He noted that the second Muslim Caliph, Omar Ibn Al Khattab, had enacted the first social code in the world to protect the vulnerable, the result of which was the establishment of bureaux for children.

Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Noor Salman also addressed the celebration, saying that Prophet Mohammad had set an example for the Muslim World.

He referred to the many crisis which the Prophet had experienced and his suffering while spreading the message of Islam, noting that in the end of the Prophet won over his enemies.

Sheikh Salman praised King Hussein's initiative to maintain and restore the Islamic Holy Shrines, such as the Dome of the Rock, the tombs of the companions of Prophet Mohammad, and most recently his directives to reconstruct the Saladin minbar

for the first time ever, will provide each governorate with its own budget, and the ministry role will be limited to monitoring the aspect of the budget that concerns a particular ministry.

Dr. Majali called for directing special attention to women,

saying that women make up half

the society. If this half is absent, he said, then half of the society is denied participation in the production process.

Dr. Majali supported a proposal for setting up a fund to support the sports and youth movement and promised to seriously discuss this proposal.

At the meeting, Youth Minister Abdullah Oweida reviewed the ministry's achievements and stressed the need for setting up a special fund to support sports and youth activities.



Cabinet members, senior ministry officials, diplomats and citizens Sunday attend a celebration of the anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's birthday in the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. (Petra photo)

patronage of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt. General Abdul Hafez Mir'a Al Kazabneh.

A similar celebration was held by several Cabinet ministers, di-

## Majali stresses citizens' role in decision-making process

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday stressed the importance of citizens' participation in the decision-making process, saying that the government and the public are partners in shouldering the burden and responsibility.

During a meeting at the Youth Ministry, Dr. Majali said the government can do not everything for citizens, and people themselves have to play their role.

He said the government will arrange for the election of governors that will draw plans and play a supervisory role, including control and monitoring. He explained that the role of a governor will be akin to that of the prime minister, assisted by department heads, similarly to ministers.

Dr. Majali said the budget law,

them through open and democratic debate and discussion. He added that such discussions should focus on the negative aspects first, because "freedom from fear encourages personal initiative and enhances belonging."

The prime minister called for decentralising administrative procedures to ease pressure on the central departments and ministries and save the citizens' time, effort and expense.

In this respect, Dr. Majali said, the ministries will draw plans and play a supervisory role, including control and monitoring. He explained that the role of a governor will be akin to that of the prime minister, assisted by department heads, similarly to ministers.

Dr. Majali said the budget law,



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday meets with officials at the Ministry of Youth (Petra photo)

## British firm chosen to evaluate RJ assets, financial status

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A British management consulting firm has been selected to conduct an evaluation of the assets and financial status of the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), and recommend the most feasible mechanism to privatise the airline, informed sources said Sunday.

According to the sources, the London-based KPMG Management Consultants was chosen from among eight international firms which submitted offers to conduct the study after negotiations on the final value of the contract.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the study will focus on the actual value of RJ based on its assets and capital.

The airline has assets with a book value of about \$450 million, and its capital is JD 22 million (\$33 million), a ratio described as ridiculous by industry experts.

An earlier study, on the overall performance of the airline, conducted by international consultants Arthur Andersen, recommended that the capital of the company be raised to at least \$100 million and that privatisation was the best means to address the massive debt problem of the airline.

The Arthur Andersen study found that the airline was a profitable organisation in terms of operational and administrative aspects, but RJ officials said that the airline's debts, estimated at around JD 255 million, accumulated since the early 1980s.

Servicing the debts is esti-

"But in this era of moving towards free-market economy and in view of the preoccupation of the government with other pressing economic problems, it is unfair to expect the government to pour tens of millions of dollars into an airline when privatisation could solve the problem."

The airline's 5,000-plus employees also fear that there could be massive layoffs if the company was to be privatised and changed hands.

But officials say that any privatisation process would definitely include a provision to avert such massive layoffs at least for the first few years of operation as a private entity.

The precise cost of the KPMG study contract was not immediately available; the sources would only say that it "could be between \$200,000 and \$250,000." The study is expected to be completed in three to four months.

According to the sources, a government-appointed committee is now looking for financing for the study, and it appeared that this aspect of the deal is most sensitive in official circles since no one was willing to comment how and where the financing was being sought.

But some officials say that in view of the pledge Dr. Majali made last week, the government would finance the study on its own. "Or they will come up with some mechanism to address this problem," said an official. "The study will not be stopped because of lack of funds."

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Al Shadi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank Complex exhibition hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Esbehla Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- ★ New art gallery, "Darat Al Funan," of the Abdulla Majed Shoman Foundation. Programmes include the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Luweibeh.

### SHOWS

- ★ "The Eternal Torch," a variety of Circassian dances performances by Al-Jael Al-Jadeed Club at the club's premises in the Seventh Circle.
- ★ Lecture entitled "The Cairns and Tombs of Harra" by William Lancaster at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

### LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "The Cairns and Tombs of Harra" by William Lancaster at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.



Wadi Rum's majestic beauty holds many a tourist in breath-taking awe of nature's wonders (File photo)

and cables.

Mr. Atallah then toured Petra

and reviewed with tourism officials there means of preserving

the touristic environment of Petra encouraging internal tourism, in addition to developing traditional industries.

## Jordan Times

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## What, who comes first?

IT IS no secret that, from the very outset of the Arab-Israeli peace process, Palestinians had harboured fears, mainly due to the complexity of their problem, about being left out in the cold as other Arab parties made progress on the other tracks. It was also clear from the beginning that the exclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) posed a serious and complex obstacle to achieving Palestinian nation rights through the negotiations.

Thus, for the last ten rounds, the PLO leadership has been combining tactics to assert its role, and has been accepting, even putting forward, compromise formulas that would allow for continued Palestinian participation in the peace talks.

It is rather ironic therefore that it is the Palestinians, or more accurately the PLO, which is now making the first public claim, among the Arabs, of approaching a possible breakthrough through back-door negotiations with Israel.

There is no doubt that by opening negotiations with the PLO, even in secret, the Israeli government has finally come to terms with the fact that the organisation is the body that has the final say on the future of the Palestinians. But what could, under different circumstances, be an achievement for the Palestinian people is now raising alarming questions and concerns not only about Palestinian national unity — and Arab solidarity — but also about the whole future of the Palestinian cause and Arab national interests.

To start with, the failure of the PLO leadership, or those involved in the negotiations, to coordinate with the other Arab parties on such a crucial issue as accepting some sort of an early interim arrangement to be applied to Gaza and Jericho first, could serve to implement a long standing Israeli goal of cancelling any linkage between the various tracks.

Furthermore, for any Arab party to take any drastic step, without coordination, in such a sensitive and a crucial process there is always a real danger of undermining the Arab negotiating position including its very own.

There is nobody that does not hope for real progress towards solving the Palestinian problem, which remains the core of the Israeli-Arab conflict. But the ambiguity surrounding the Gaza-Jericho option, along with the conflicting Israeli and Palestinian interpretations of the deal, is a source of serious alarm.

After all, the Palestinians in particular, and all the Arab parties in general, have every interest in preventing any Israeli attempt to fragment the Palestinian cause and the whole peace process. What has transpired from the reported secret agreement so far does not quell such fears in the light of repeated Israeli statements that the arrangements will be confined to establishing autonomy in Jericho and Gaza while there is no talk about complete Israeli withdrawal or acceptance of Palestinian sovereignty.

The optimistic statements, made by some Palestinian officials who have been promoting the option in defiance of mounting Palestinian opposition, suggest that the PLO is hoping to establish a foothold in Jericho and the Gaza Strip to enable to lay the nucleus for a future Palestinian state.

All Israeli statements, however, indicate that even if the PLO leadership was indeed allowed to set up such an authority, its responsibilities could be reduced to paying the cost of continuing Israel control — Israel will remain control of security — and repress Palestinian opposition after the dismal failure by Israel to stop Palestinian attacks against Israeli targets.

Nobody can underestimate or dismiss the significance of an Israeli willingness to make territorial compromise or to recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. But the recent developments, judging by Palestinian and Israeli accounts, raise serious concern that Israel is only trying to use the PLO to authorise the delegation to make concessions and to create a transitional stage during which Palestinian resistance is quelled by Palestinian authority.

The question that imposes itself here is of what use the PLO would be to the Palestinian struggle if it is stripped from its main historical role as the embodiment of the Palestinian national aspirations — and this a real threat that Palestinians and Jordanians alike should be aware of.

It is equally painful that our brothers in the Palestinian leadership, who do not seem to take the threat to the very existence of the Palestinian movement and the cause seriously, are also not taking into consideration the potential grave implications on Jordan of the Gaza-Jericho option.

The threat of Israel using Jericho as a conduit for emptying the land of its Palestinian inhabitants during the interim period is real, considering the current regional balance of power.

His Majesty King Hussein made it clear to the PLO chairman yesterday that Jordan would continue to support and respect the independence of the Palestinian decision, a principle that the PLO itself has always struggled to maintain. But taking into consideration the pressures that have been exerted on the PLO leadership, through political isolation and withdrawal of financial aid, we think we have the right to ask: How can the PLO maintain its national decision if it loses Palestinian support? They have to come if the people are to support the PLO.

## Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

### Self-perceived fear of Islam could act against Western interests

FEW MONTHS ago I attended an international meeting in Germany where representatives of NATO were also present. The major theme of deliberations was the new Islamic tide across the Arab and Islamic World and means to cope with or contain it. It became clear at the outset that NATO is searching for a "new enemy" to target after the collapse of the communist order in Moscow and elsewhere in Eastern Europe. The western defence alliance appears to be seeking a new *rason d'être* and is constantly searching for a fresh justification for its continued existence as a collective deterrence.

It was also made clear that Russia is far from being crossed out as a potential strategic foe in spite of the end of communism there. Moscow is almost a traditional enemy in view of its size and potential strength. There is bound to be a conflict of interest between major states because of economic if not political reasons. Besides, there is no sure way to tell whether Russians will revert to a totalitarian form of government as its history is replete with such cases.

Peking is fast developing into a superpower in its own right and there is no telling when China could replace the former Soviet Union as, at least, a second rate superpower worthy of reckoning with internationally.

Meanwhile, NATO must maintain its readiness to deal with all eventualities and the Islamic wave appears to offer some immediate threat that calls for combat readiness. Against this backdrop, one begins to understand the western reluctance to help out the defeated Muslims in Bosnia, in spite of the size and dimension of the atrocities that were committed against them. Europe is simply horrified by the thought of seeing an Islamic base constructed in their immediate backyard and no matter how horrific the crimes perpetrated against the Bosnian Muslims are, the old continent was not prepared to move militarily to stop the decimation of a fledgling Islamic state in Europe.

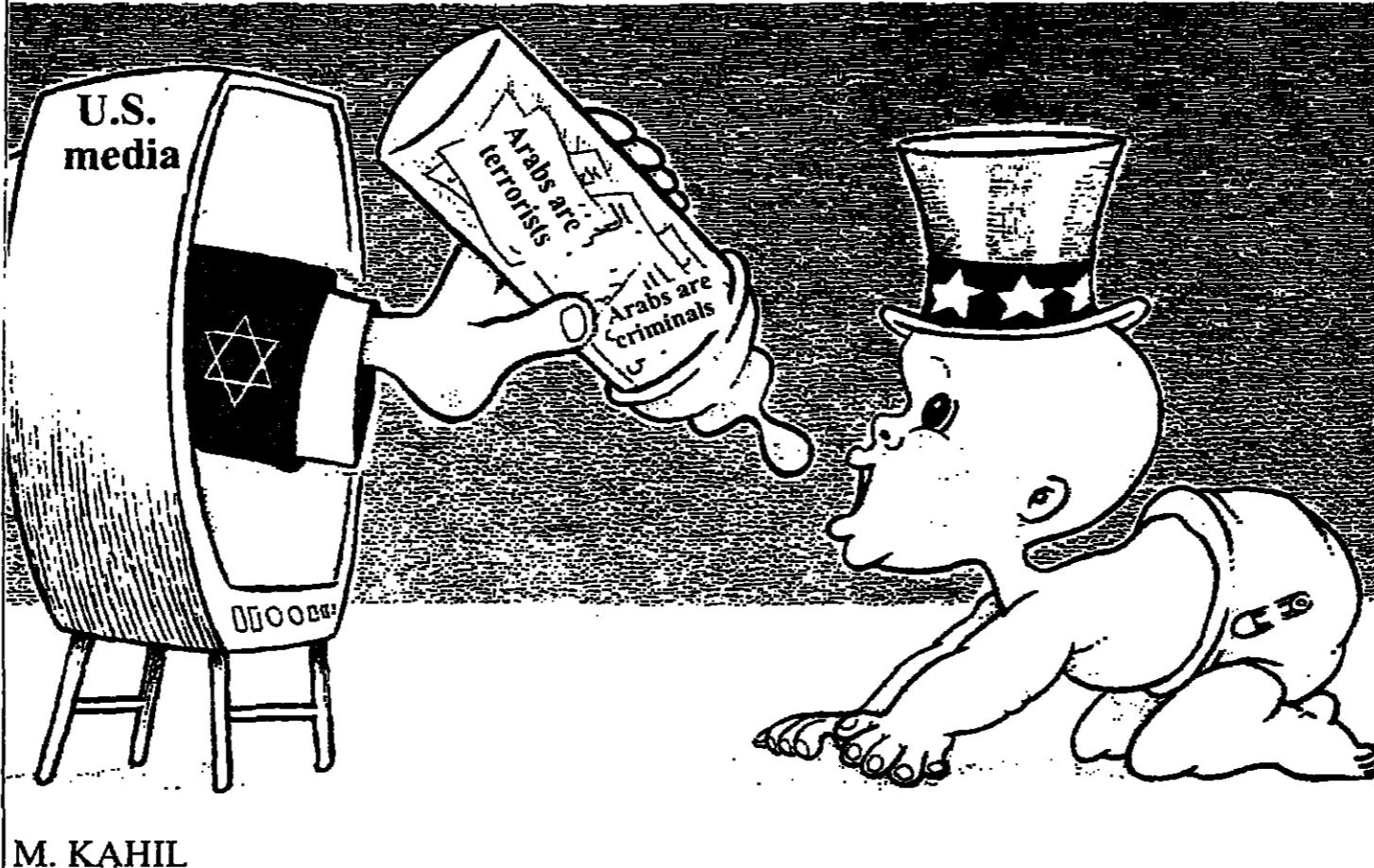
What made things more difficult for the Bosnian government, and may have turned the tide against it even within the Clinton administration, were the reports that Iran was seeking a base for itself within the Bosnian government. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic may have committed the mother of all sins from the western point of view when unconfirmed reports suggested that he had signaled to the Iranian regime his willingness to play ball

with it or even strike a strategic alliance with it in order to receive urgently needed material help. The fact that the Bosnian government was pushed into Tehran's embrace by Serbia's aggression did not seem to matter very much since, from Europe's perspective, the Iranian regime is the source of Islamic tide across the world and it must not be allowed a presence in Europe, whatever the cost.

By making "Islam" the new challenge for the West, however, the western defence alliance is risking increasing the fortunes of the Islamic movement instead of clipping its wings. Unlike the communist ideology, Islam has stronger and deeper grassroots support in the Islamic and Arab World. The fervour for religion may have been idle for some decades, or even centuries, but any attempt to make an enemy out of it is bound to have the counter effect that no amount of military or security-oriented anecdotes can be expected to stop.

Moderate Islamists sitting on the fringe of the conflict with Muslim extremists can be expected to join the fray on the side of Islam if the world is not careful in addressing the new challenges or dangers poised by the so-called new Islamic wave. In this vein, neither Algeria nor Egypt can be expected to succeed in dealing a death blow to Muslim extremists even by the style of combat chosen by these states for this purpose. Other Arab and Islamic countries can also be expected to face similar experiences if they do not opt for a more enlightened approach to the new phenomenon. The nature of Islam is such that a strictly military or security oriented approach against it would only add to its strength and acceptance on a wider scale.

Historically speaking, Islam became stronger when it was treated as an archenemy by the existing international order. Islam built its own empire and attained the status of a superpower as a direct consequence of the challenges and dangers put at its door steps. If it turned out to be true that NATO views Islam as a real threat, then it may be unsuspectingly lending an indirect support to its gaining new power. The hundreds of millions of silent moderate Muslims may be drawn into the battlefield against their will if their religion is made the target of the new international order. World leaders are invited to accord the recent Islamisation process a deeper thought.



### Thais still seek culprits behind southern violence

By Sonya Hepinstall  
Reuters

BANGKOK — Nearly one month after an arson attack on 34 schools set off a chain of violence in Thailand's southern Muslim-dominated provinces, Thais are still at odds over who is to blame.

The violence has so far claimed six lives and wounded dozens in Pattani, Satun, Yala and Narathiwat provinces. It included the ambush of an army engineering unit and an attack on a train in which a girl was killed.

From the very beginning the army blamed the July 31 arson attack and each subsequent incident on splinter Muslim groups trying to breathe life into a waning separatist movement.

But many in the government and local people in the provinces say that religious fervour is the motivation. They suggest that disgruntled former leaders might be involved in an attempt to destabilise the coalition government of Chuan Leekpai.

Political analysts said Mr. Chuan would have to resolve the problem fast or risk permanent political damage. He will cut short a visit to China this weekend to deal with the issue.

"The government might have managed to muddle through a long list of other problems during its nearly one year in office," said the Bangkok Post in an editorial on Sunday.

"But it can ill afford to try muddling through the formidable security challenge in the deep south because its own stability as much as its credibility in the eyes of the public is further eroded by

every new terrorist attack."

Although the government has yet to declare a state of emergency or impose a curfew in the south, all-primary schools in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat will close for nearly three weeks while the investigation continues.

The first issue is the identity of the attackers.

The military says a faction of younger members of an old guerrilla group, the Pattani United Liberation Organisation (PULO), may be attempting to stoke up separatist sentiments. They say PULO may be unhappy that resistance seems to be waning due to the Chuan government's commitment to improving Muslims' religious freedoms in this mainly Buddhist country.

In the 1970s and '80s PULO sabotaged government offices, railways and railway stations to back demands for autonomy for southern Thai provinces bordering Muslim Malaysia.

The fourth army region (in the south) has been engaging in a discussion with a part of that leadership, a moderate one, an ageing one," Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan said recently, explaining the army's rationale.

"There are some elements in that movement who might not be too enthusiastic about entering into discussion, negotiation, a compromise. They just want to create an issue, to show a flag, we're still here," said Mr. Surin, himself a Muslim from the south who was educated in the United States.

Sunday newspapers said Interior Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh was planning to visit Kuala Lumpur soon to ask for Malaysia's help with the problem.

They said he might seek its cooperation for attacks on suspected rebel bases on the Malaysian side of the border.

But local people, as well as government officials at all levels, Muslim leaders and academics, believe the separatist story is not true.

"I don't believe the separatists would have the capacity to do a job like that," said Hama Tohmung, a member of the Pattani provincial Islamic committee.

"Why would members of the movement trying to win over the hearts and minds of the local Muslim population burn down schools indiscriminately, including learning places for young Muslims?" he said.

Some say former members of government, possibly including generals who staged a coup in 1991 but were ousted a year later, played a role in the incidents.

Others believe the truth may lie somewhere in between.

"The way in which the event was orchestrated, carried out..." said Mr. Surin. "Thirty-four schools in four provinces, and not one bit of news, of intelligence, leaked out? That's more than just usual, more than just a separatist group, and probably more than just certain elements of the bureaucracy," he said. "It's not too far-fetched that both of them could be together."

Reports that Israel and the PLO are secretly negotiating a deal for the Palestinians to take charge of Jericho and the Gaza Strip, have put a buzz in the air.

About 20 businessmen have already obtained loans worth \$2 million to invest in Jericho from the Economic Development Group, a Palestinian fund for small projects in the occupied territories.

### Arafat sparks economic boom in sleepy W. Bank oasis

By Barry Parker  
Agence France Presse

JERICHO, Occupied West Bank — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's bid to turn this sleepy oasis, which claims to be the oldest town in the world, into the precursor of a Palestinian state has ignited an economic boom.

The price of land has doubled in the last month following Mr. Arafat's call for Israel to withdraw first from this West Bank site and turn it over to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The Jericho first option presents a unique chance to invest," said businessman Ahmad Seif.

"In another year property and land prices will be out of reach," predicted the 30-year-old, the cost of 1,000 square metres has soared from \$10,000 to \$21,000.

Jericho, a brilliant splash of lush green palm and fruit trees on the edge of the Judean desert, became a virtual ghost town as recession struck in the wake of the intifada or uprising against Israeli occupation, which erupted in 1987.

Once a popular destination for tourists, most of the restaurants and hotels closed down, despite being the only crossing point into Jordan.

But the "Winter Palace" Hotel is now undergoing renovations as are numerous shops and guesthouses amid hopes that the rich Palestinians who once flocked to the winter sun will soon be back.

Reports that Israel and the PLO are secretly negotiating a deal for the Palestinians to take charge of Jericho and the Gaza Strip, have put a buzz in the air.

About 20 businessmen have already obtained loans worth \$2 million to invest in Jericho from the Economic Development Group, a Palestinian fund for small projects in the occupied territories.

### Israel 'has chemical weapons arsenal'

ISRAEL HAS been producing non-conventional warheads over long distances. "Israel has stockpiled the most modern missile potential in the Near and Middle East regions," says the report. These weapons include the 480 kilometre Jericho 1, which was first deployed about 20 years ago; and the 750 kilometre range Jericho 2, of which over 100 were deployed in the 1977-1981 period.

The disclosure is bound to embarrass Israel, which has been pressuring Arab states to abandon their chemical weapons programmes and which in January signed the Chemical Weapons Convention, a treaty barring the production, stockpiling and use of poison gases.

An RFIS report, "The Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction," released earlier this year, flatly declares: "Israel has a store of chemical weapons of its own manufacture."

It explains: "The development of chemical weapons in Israel began in the mid-1960s (and) at the present time Israel is capable of producing toxic substances of all types, including nerve-paralysing, blister-producing and temporarily incapacitating substances."

The RFIS report notes that "large scale research (in the interests of military departments) is unceasing in Israel in the sphere of the synthesis of new physiologically active substances."

Israel is one of 142 states which have signed the Chemical Weapons Convention. Most Arab states have declined to sign, arguing that they should not be expected to limit their military options so long as Israel has atomic weapons and refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Signatories to the Chemical Weapons Convention are grouped into a series of regional caucuses. Israel has been pressing to join the western European grouping. Western diplomatic sources say that there is considerable resistance by group members. In part, this is because Israel is in the Middle East, and not Europe. Also, however, it reflects concern about the sincerity of Israel's renunciation of chemical weapons.

The RFIS report confirms the open secret that Israel has a large nuclear stockpile of "from 100 to 200 weapons." The production facilities were developed mainly with help from France, although some equipment and materials were obtained illicitly in the United States, Britain, France and Germany.

The report adds: "Tel Aviv's interest in the development of thermonuclear weapons cannot be ruled out."

The RFIS also stresses that the Israelis would have no difficulty

Jordanian control.

"I was perhaps the first settler and I will probably be the last," said Mr. David who lives in Vered Jericho, the nearest Jewish settlement.

"I do not hate Arabs, on the contrary, but if they take control of the town I will be forced to leave because I do not belong in their world."

"Many Palestinians have come to see me about buying me out for a better price than the place is worth. It's a perfect site on the road between Amman and Jerusalem."

Rajai Abdo, manager of Hisham Palace Hotel, wants to see something concrete happen before getting carried away.

"We expect the recession will end and hope to see better times, but little has changed so far," he moaned.

"We have started renovating, but not on a grand scale because we do not have the money to invest after so many lean years. Business virtually ground to halt after 1967. Property and dealers are the only ones making money so far," Mr. Abdo said.



Mohammed Hafiz Al Qudwa, a 66-year-old cousin of Yasser Arafat, stands at a portrait of the Palestinian leader 29 Aug. Mr. Qudwa is among many waiting for Mr. Arafat's return to the Gaza Strip (AP photo).

# Features

## Troy treasure hoard sparks international dispute

By Sophie Pons

MOSCOW (AFP) — A treasure hoard believed to have belonged to King Priam of Troy is at the centre of a growing international dispute between governments and museums vying with each other to get their hands on it.

The fabulous collection of gems, unearthed by German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann when he discovered the site of the ancient city in the last century, has been in dispute since it was stolen by the Russian Red Army in 1945.

It returned to the spotlight at the start of the year when it was rediscovered in the vaults of a Moscow museum, where it had lain unnoticed for decades.

Now Russian authorities have once again thrust its fate into question, this time by announcing that it will be exhibited in Russia before it is shown elsewhere else.

"This unique collection must be returned to the world, but its first exhibition will take place in Russia, then Greece, then Turkey and other countries," said Russian Culture Minister Yevgeny Sidorov.

The statement has caused some consternation internationally. Not least in Athens, where the Greek government had announced that it would host the world premiere of the exhibition.

The Bonn government has also expressed some surprise. Bonn has disputed the ownership of the collection, bequeathed to it in 1880 by Schliemann's family, ever since the Soviets stole it.

Last but not least, Ankara has also laid claim to the rare gems that Schliemann smuggled out of Turkish territory — the site of ancient Troy — into Greece.

The collection — some 9,000 items, including necklaces, diamonds, gold and silver tableware, dishes, shields and other rare military equipment, unearthed by Schliemann in 1873 — has never before been shown in one exhibition."

To further complicate any plans to exhibit the gems, Ms. Antonova told AFP that they could not be shown for at least two years, as a full inventory of each item had first to be drawn up.

Athens apparently has other plans. At the end of September a Greek delegation is due to arrive to seek permission to transport the collection to Athens, where they want to exhibit it in the palace of Troy — a vast neoclassical centre constructed by Schliemann.

**"The collection — some 9,000 items, including necklaces, diamonds, gold and silver tableware, dishes, shields and other rare military equipment, unearthed by Schliemann in 1873 — has never before been shown in one exhibition."**

They are basing their plans on a promise allegedly made by Russian President Boris Yeltsin during an official visit to the Greek capital in June. That that promise is to be honoured seems doubtful.

The age of the collection itself has also come back into question.

"The pieces have been dated to around the year 3,000 B.C., that is about 1,200 years after the era of Priam, Troy and Homer," according to the Russian Culture Ministry cited by the Journal Literaturnaya Gazeta.

In one bid to help settle the matter, an international archaeological expedition which is currently working at Troy has recently offered to help the Pushkin Museum, according to the Gazette.

In another development, which may shed some light on the matter, Russia is planning an international conference on the life and work of Heinrich Schliemann, dismissed by his contemporaries as an amateur.

FOR THE young men on death row, Friday nights were a time of dread. "If they said you would go outside the next day, your hands would start shaking," said Kiki Francis.

Executions were often carried out on Saturday, and when inmates were led outside they did not know if it was to be for some fresh air or if it was to be their last breath. Those on death row were allowed five minutes of sun each day.

Death row at Nigeria's notorious Kirkiriki Maximum Security prison in Lagos was home to Mr. Francis, 23, for four years after being convicted on charges of armed robbery allegedly committed in 1984 when he was 14 years old. The military decree under which Mr. Francis was convicted barred the right of appeal. In August 1990, the then military governor of Lagos, Colonel Raji Rasaki, announced he intended to execute Mr. Francis and 11 other youths who became known as the "kid robbers". But on the day the execution was to be carried out a human rights group obtained a court order stopping it.

Three months later the Campaign for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR), led by Boko Ransome-Kuti, obtained a court order suspending the executions. Boko and the human rights groups got a court order to stop the execution on the day it was to be carried out," said Mr. Francis.

The government maintained that the "kid robbers" could be executed because 11 of the 12 youths were over the age of 17 when they allegedly committed the crime. The Nigerian legal system regards anyone below the age of 17 as a minor and not subject to execution. Human rights groups, such as the CDHR and the Civil Liberties Organisation, argued that the authorities had never permitted a medical examination to determine their true ages.

On Christmas Eve 1990, one of the youths, Mohammed Ibrahim, died on death row of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis, an illness that runs rampant in Kirkiriki. Another youth initially arrested with the group, Bello Dan Musa, died in 1984 of unknown causes. There were up to six inmates eating, sleeping and relieving themselves in a 4ft by 6ft cell, which was damp and full of mosquitoes, "No man for man can be that prison," Mr. Francis said. "It suits you just die."

The evidence against Mr. Francis and the surviving 11 boys was thin. They had been picked up in a police swoop after a wealthy woman in the Ikorodu market area reported a robbery. The assailants allegedly carried a gun and cutlasses. She accused her two houseboys of involvement, and they, in turn, rode around

with the plainclothes police pointing out neighbourhoods of immigrants from the republic of Benin and the Nigerian border town of Badagry. The houseboys had said the other robbers spoke "egun", the most common language in Badagry. The bulk of these immigrants are fishermen living along the lagoons that divide Lagos up into three islands set off from the mainland. Its name, which means "lakes", was given it by the early Portuguese explorers.

Many fishermen came to purchase pirogues, the thick wooden canoes carved from a single tree trunk that ply the countless lakes, rivers and coastal waters throughout Africa. The woodlands of southern Benin are badly depleted, and fishermen near the border on Lake Nokoue, known as the "Tofinu" or "water people", are suffering from overcrowding at Ganvie, their lake village on stilts. For them, Nigeria is a land of opportunity. Near the Lagos mainland fish farms, consisting of tree branch and bush cuttings planted into shallow waters, cover the area.

Mr. Francis lived in one such fishing village near the Obalende market area of Ikoyi island. He was a Catholic catechist who spent his days walking along sandy pathways through a maze of cardboard and wooden huts spreading the word of God.

The police came at 7:30 p.m. on 17 September 1984. Mr. Francis was on his way to visit his local priest, Emmanuel Babatunde, when he was stopped at the gap in the cement barrier wall where people can sprint across the highway into the city. Two plainclothes policemen, accompanied by the two young houseboys, told him to sit down in the sand and wait. Then they kicked him.

Soon afterwards, Awuji Roshe and Oluwole Jiffey walked by and were told to do the same. All three were bundled into the back of a station-wagon and driven to Ikorodu police station. The cells were filled with poor young Hausa men who came from northern Nigeria and ended up roaming the streets of Lagos. Mr. Francis was released after three days, after paying a 200 naira (£5.50) fine and promising to report to the police.

Two weeks later the police returned to arrest him and he was sent to Kirkiriki. Mr. Francis and the other youths were convicted only in 1988 and in controversial circumstances. Their arrest took place at a time when the military government of General Muhammadu Buhari had launched a tough campaign against violent crime. Decree 5 of 1984, which set up the Robbery and Firearms Tribunal and under which they were tried, provided for no appeal.

Gen. Buhari was overthrown on 27 Aug. 1985, by Nigeria's current military president, General Ibrahim Babangida, but the executions continued. The Civil Liberties Organisation estimated there were at least 120 executions in 1990.

Their court case, presided over by one of Nigeria's toughest judges, Moshood Olubanjo, was riddled with problems. "The whole trial was full of procedural irregularities and overt bias against the convicts ... I have no doubt in my mind that if this case were to come before an appellate court, it would succeed, the conviction would be overturned and a verdict of acquittal substituted," Bayo Manawa, the Lagos state director of public prosecu-

tions, wrote to Col. Rasaki in 1988. "It is therefore my considered recommendation that the military governor be advised to disallow this conviction and order the immediate release of the convicts from custody."

Two years later, however, Col. Rasaki confirmed that the executions would go ahead, but the human rights groups intervened with the court injunction. "Sleep and pray were the only things to do," said Mr. Francis, "I had already lost hope."

Politics intervened in the form of an elected state governor, Michael Otedola, and the departure of Col. Rasaki. Mr. Otedola's decision to pardon the "kid robbers" was a popular one, especially at Mr. Francis' village,

"This boy was a teacher for us. He would come around with his Bible and we had prayers every day," said Richard Ghenu, a distant uncle. "He was gone so long but now we are strong again having him back."

Since his release in January, however, Mr. Francis has only been back at weekends. The People's Bank, a government institution that provides low-interest loans to the poor, awarded each of the freed "kid robbers" 10,000 naira to set up their own trade. Mr. Francis has gone to Badagry to sell gari, the manioc-based staple porridge, and rice. Business is bad because of rampant inflation, now running at over 100 per cent a year. But Mr. Francis

said his prison experience convinced him that he should leave Lagos. Rents are high, too.

The human rights groups that launched the campaign on behalf of the "kid robbers" he views as saviours. "Without Boko and the CLO, we were lost," he said. Ironically, today Dr. Ransome-Kuti is in jail facing charges of sedition and conspiracy because of his role in organising pro-democracy rallies this month in Lagos.

Mr. Francis will always be suspicious of the government. He was not even sure if he should accept the loan. "I fear that if I do not repay it, the police will come back for me," he said. The Independent.

## Kid from death row lives to tell a tale

By Karl Maier

Gloomy times ahead for these Nigerian boys in a slum

## Japan harnesses high-tech to automate buildings

By Sebastian Moffett  
Reuter

However, the companies admit there are limitations.

TOKYO — Another skyscraper rolling off the old assembly line?

Could be. Japanese builders are automating the construction process in a bid to boost efficiency, improve safety and reduce the need for labourers.

On the site of a nearly completed building by Obayashi Corp. workers sit watching programs on TV screens and monitoring robots.

The nearest most come to manual labour is pressing buttons and pulling levers on machine controls.

"On a normal building you need lots of skilled workers, but here we have machine operators," said Teruo Okawa, general manager of Obayashi's Construction Engineering Department.

The crucial element is a box-like construction factory that sits on top of the emerging building, and edges skyward like a giant plant at the rate of one storey a week.

Obayashi says its automated construction system cuts the number of on-site workers to a sixth of the usual.

Part of the trick is to prepare component parts off-site, then get machines to assemble them at the building site.

Components are moved using automatic lifts. Giant vacuum suckers stick to floor panels and hoist them into place. Welding robots on circular tracks seal beam sections.

Another builder, Taisei Corp. has developed a system consisting of a covered platform that sits atop the building's central core. The platform is raised using a powerful jack. Crane operators can build the outer sections of the building six floors below.

Taisei aims to reduce, not eliminate, on-site workers. It can build a floor in three days, compared with five or six for normal methods.

The projects, which several Japanese biggest construction groups are working on, began in the late 1980s when the economy was roaring and was in the grips of a severe labour shortage.

Labour became a sellers' market, and young Japanese spurned manual labour in favour of smarter office jobs. Though in a brief respite now, the labour shortage is expected to worsen later this decade after the number of new graduates peaks.

Obayashi estimates that Japanese construction sees 1,000 deaths and 30,000 injuries each year — another factor adding to the industry's negative image among potential employees.

Having fewer on-site workers lessens risks, as does the working environment in the box-like factory — the maximum distance one can fall is just three metres.

"Initially these (systems) tend to be a bit gimmicky as it very difficult to automate construction processes," said Mark Brown, senior construction analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

But he added: "In the long

ing," said Obayashi's Okawa. "But more than this, customers like the precision that an automated site gives."

Days off for bad weather mean most builders have to factor season and geography into their forecasts of building time. But with a roof-covered system work continues whatever the weather, and a customer's schedule is more easily met.

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Tokyo streets — a nightmare for some, order without order for others (File photo)

## EC chief wants world economic body



Jacques Delors

LORIENT, France (R) — European Community (EC) chief Jacques Delors called Sunday for an umbrella international organisation — an economic security council — to be set up to watch over the world economy.

Mr. Delors, president of the EC's executive commission, told a seminar in this French Brittany port existing world organisations had failed to respond to the challenge of modern economic interdependence.

He also said the EC was a "house in danger" and needed new impetus to spur moves to greater European union.

International bodies dealt with their own sector without a global view of monetary, financial, trade, social and environmental problems, while the much vaunted summits of Group of Seven top industrial nations were just "a mountain that gave birth to a mouse."

"This is why I favour setting up an economic security council that, without substituting existing bodies, would regularly take stock of the world economy without neglecting any of its parameters," he said.

Mr. Delors said the proposed watchdog should include the United States, Japan, the European Community, China, Russia and the heads of African, Asian, Pacific and Latin American regional organisations.

They would gather with representatives of major economic bodies such as the International Monetary Fund, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and World Bank.

"This council would recommend policies to cut imbalance affecting parts of world economy and respond to challenges crucial for the progress or survival of

humanity," he said.

Mr. Delors was delivering the closing speech at a seminar on "the planet village" organised by Club Temoins (witnesses club), a group he founded with French socialist politicians.

Following Europe's recent currency crisis and failure to adopt a decisive joint approach on Yugoslavia, Mr. Delors called the EC "a house in danger."

He blamed setbacks on the lack of economic convergence and political will to forge ahead with European union and compared the EC's common foreign policy with a grand prix car running with a small engine.

"Why try to hide it? If we stick to this course... there will be no single currency," he emphasised.

"Behind this short-sightedness probably lies the lack of a strong political will to press ahead with the only collective scheme that will allow Europe to turn its back on decline and loss of world influence," he said.

The danger was so obvious, he said, that heads of state and government should be jolted into action at the forthcoming emergency EC summit, and supporters of political union must be prepared to do battle for a federal Europe.

Mr. Delors said the time of small steps was over, and trying to repair the European Monetary System dented by the widening of currency fluctuation margins would not be enough.

"A new initiative must be taken by those who want to give our... countries the political instrument that will allow them to progress in an union solidly ensured by a political community, a community of peoples and nations," he said.

## Hong Kong urges banks to further tighten mortgage lending

HONG KONG (AFP) — The Hong Kong government has said it had urged banks to consider tightening up lending criteria to curb rampant growth in mortgage portfolios.

In a new warning about the risk of a speculative bubble, David Carse, deputy chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), urged banking institutions to review and, if necessary, beef up lending criteria to stop excessive growth in property lending.

"The rate of growth has now risen to 30.2 per cent per annum,

compared with 25.3 per cent per annum in the three-month period to June," he warned in a letter to the Banking Industry Association made public by the HKMA.

Mr. Carse also warned that residential mortgage lending in the territory was growing at the fastest rate since the end of 1991 when the government set a ceiling of 70 per cent ceiling on loans in order to curb rampant speculation.

The ceiling, calculated as a percentage of a property's purchase price, aimed at pricking speculation fuelled by banks offering loans of as much as 90 per cent.

## Yen's surge sparks heated debate in Japan over investment in Asia

TOKYO (AFP) — The yen's advance to new heights has ignited a heated debate here over the benefits of shifting key manufacturing technologies abroad as Japanese companies begin considering a second wave of investment in Asia.

"Japanese companies will certainly accelerate moving production bases abroad, rather than exporting goods and parts tagged with extremely high prices," said Tamizo Kimura, an analyst at Yamaichi Research Institute Inc.

"But the shift might lead to the deterioration of domestic industry and the hollowing out of the Japanese economy," Mr. Kimura warned, using the buzzword of the mid-1980's which has recently made a comeback with the yen's latest surge.

Kanji Hayashi, from the Asia Bureau of the powerful Federation of Economic Federation Organisations (Keidanren), reckons the incentive to shift production abroad is now greater than seven years ago when the yen's appreciation triggered the initial flood of investment towards Asia.

The strained infrastructure in some countries in Asia, notably in Thailand, has sufficiently improved a comeback with the yen's latest surge.

Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. has recently decided to cancel plans to make upmarket compact-disc players and radio-cassette players at a plant operated by an affiliate in southeast Japan, resulting in the loss of 170 jobs.

The products will instead be made in Singapore, Malaysia and possibly China, where Sanyo already has production facilities, company officials said.

Pioneer Electronic Corp. announced earlier this week that it planned to shift more production abroad to cope with the stronger yen, which contributed

to a 59 per cent plunge in consolidated earnings in the three months to June.

Foreign manufacturing for products sold abroad, mainly audio equipment, is targeted to rise from 30 per cent to 50 per cent over the next three years.

A spokesman for Mitsubishi Electric Corp. said: "The trend will continue as long as we try to avoid the negative effects of exchange rates," a spokesman said.

But Japan Federation of Employers' Associations Chairman Takeshi Nagano, who is also chairman of Mitsubishi Materials Corp., the country's biggest processor of non-ferrous metals, expressed his concerns in a recent interview.

"Japan will lose everything if it immediately moves production abroad in response to currency fluctuations," Mr. Nagano told the Mainichi Shimbun. "Once you leave the country, you can't come back any more."

Toshio Watanabe, a professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, noted that only 10 per cent of Japanese products were manufactured abroad compared with more than 20 per cent for several other industrial nations.

## U.S. to wage export war on two fronts

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government is plotting a two-pronged offensive on behalf of U.S. business that would propel exports and peel back strict controls on technology transfers, officials say.

An interagency group led by the Commerce Department will wrap up a broad study on U.S. export promotion next month, laying out what went wrong in past U.S. efforts to boost key industries overseas and how money might be spent better.

"We already spend a decent amount of money on export promotion, but we don't have a conscious, coordinated policy," said an administration official on condition of anonymity.

"If you don't have good information and don't collect data, how can you develop analysis?" he said. "We already pick who we help — I don't know if that's winners or losers — but the desire now is to figure out a unified budget."

The report, prepared by the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, is due out at the end of September.

Exports have been driving weak U.S. economic growth in increasing measure, and the administration says that every \$1 billion in overseas sales translates into 19,000 jobs at home.

"So the stakes are simply too high not to make significant changes. Export expansion is one of the pillars of President Clinton's overall economic programme," said a senior Commerce Department official.

Just as the Clinton team insists on "measured success" when dealing with its trading partners, the report said.

— To remove or reduce government barriers to exports.

"There's a desire to be a bit more conscious, to see how much is spent in each area," said the administration official.

For instance, he said, how much is spent promoting low-tech "widgets" versus high-technology products and what returns are reaped on the two government investments?

"What kind of jobs is each created? What proportion are we spending on each? Is that too much on the widgets?" said the official, outlining the sort of activist export policy that rattles U.S. trading partners.

According to the senior commerce official: "We want to expand the realm of the possible — to target the appropriate places in which government can help business export more."

"We're seeking the focus and activation that has been missing in the past," he said.

## India buoyed by dramatic export surge

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's exports have surged dramatically in a sign that industry is looking increasingly outward as it emerges from a domestic recession, taking advantage of a weaker and free-floating rupee.

Trade data for April-June, the first quarter of the fiscal year, shows that export earnings had zoomed 27.76 per cent to \$3.12 billion over the first three months of the previous financial year.

Imports dropped 2.66 per cent to \$5.42 billion, disproving fears of a flood of overseas products resulting from lower import tariffs and cutting the trade deficit from \$1.5 billion to \$301 million.

The Federation of Indian Export Organisation called the export performance, albeit over the depressed earnings of April-June 1992, "remarkable."

It is "one of the most encouraging features of the current economic scene," The Observer of Business and Politics commented.

The upward trend, which started in February and March when India enjoyed a trade surplus, is cause for hope that the export target of \$22 billion in fiscal 1993-94 may even be exceeded, the daily said.

The ambitious target announced in June represents a 20 per cent jump over the export performance in 1992-93, when overseas sales grew by a dismal 3.61 per cent and the deficit doubled to \$3.3 billion.

Exports of many products, including iron ore and drugs, plunged, partly because of lost markets.

The new banks will enable the central bank to get out of the specialised and commercial banking business.

## China forming two strategic 'policy' loan banks

PEKING (R) — China said Sunday it was forming state banks to focus on two of the government's top strategic priorities — foreign trade and long-term development.

The new banks, to open next year, are part of a two-month-old restructuring of the finance sector. The sector has been blamed for generous but illegal lending to property and stock market speculators at the expense of crucial growth.

The shift will help the People's Bank of China "to become a real central bank, which is the goal of the country's financial reform," the official China Daily quoted Zhao Haikuan, head of the Bank's Finance Research Institute, as saying.

The shift will help the People's Bank of China "to become a real central bank, which is the goal of the country's financial reform," the official China Daily quoted Zhao Haikuan, head of the Bank's Finance Research Institute, as saying.

The new Long-Term Development and Credit Bank and Import and Export Bank will focus on strategic "policy" loans, leaving more profitable commercial lending to the quasi-independent specialised banking sector, the China Daily said.

The specialised Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Construction Bank of China and Agricultural Bank of China will be "tread up" from the "high-risk, low-return policy loan business," it said.

"Liberating (them) from the burden of policy loans, it will be easier to transform China's specialised banks into true commercial banks," the newspaper said.

The Long-Term Development and Credit Bank will provide loans for infrastructure-related construction projects in energy, transport and other vital sectors, the paper quoted Lou Jiwei of the State Commission for Economic Restructuring as saying.

"These projects need long-term and low-interest loans but commercial banks are reluctant to offer them because of their high risk and low profit," Mr. Lou said.

He said the new banks are expected to finance their lending mainly from their own capital, which is to be raised through the government.

Initial capitalisation of the two banks was not announced.

Economics supremo and vice-premier Zhu Rongji, who took charge of the People's Bank of China in July, has vowed to transform it into a Western-style institution guiding monetary policy through control of credit and money supply.

The new banks will enable the central bank to get out of the specialised and commercial banking business.

## South Korea worried by low economic growth

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's economic recovery is taking longer than expected in spite of President Kim Young-Sam's efforts to stimulate the economy, and some analysts fear the country is in for a period of prolonged stagnation.

Local press reports said the nation's business leaders were not happy with Mr. Kim's enforcement of the so-called "real name" system at this time.

The Federation of Korean Industries, which groups the top leaders of the nation's business conglomerates, or chaebols, supported the move.

But one chaebol chief was quoted as saying: "The real name system should have been put into force when the country's economic recovery is put back on track."

He added that if the government wanted industry to make new investment to boost the economy, it should first bring down high interest rates by carrying out a drastic monetary reform similar to that in rival exporting countries such as Japan and Taiwan.

South Korean business circles have long argued that their export products could become far more competitive on international markets if money rates were lowered.

Korea University economics professor Kim Dong-Kee said a sweeping anti-corruption probe launched by Mr. Kim, which included the arrests of a number of senior officials in the previous government, had also sapped investment sentiment.

The country's largest circulation Chosun daily said in an editorial that the main reason why investment had not revived was that industrialists were still worried about uncertainty surrounding the Kim administration's economic policies.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY AUGUST 30, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Get friends to help you put affairs on a more modern basis and try to side step any argument that could occur under the mid-day Moon square Pluto aspect that is effecting your chart.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Think about how you can best play your most interesting capabilities to your advancement and then you will be able to advance towards your aims.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Take a good look at your residence and consider what you can do to make it more habitable, then you can add those conditions to achieve this worthwhile purpose.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Think about those with whom you have been routinely allied for sometime past and let them know you appreciate and want more constructive progress.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Think about your property and possessions and what you can do to improve them and then quickly put into motion some beneficial results.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Decide what your long range plans and ambitions of a personal nature are early, then you can visualise the best means to make them a part of your life.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 21) You now have a chance to organise and plan whatever your activities early on a very intelligent basis while later put more zest into doing them.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) This is the day when you can organise and plan whatever your activities early on a very intelligent basis while later put more zest into doing them.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You start the week with good ideas for more stability to worldly activities and reputation, then you can add some additional zip to your life.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Consider plans for taking a trip that has been planned for sometimes and then add some further places to go or persons to contact then.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have been trying for sometime to get more to do what you want and if you approach from a different angle you can achieve this result now.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You have one who has been reliable for a long time to later a more modern and up to date person is helpful.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) First consider you long planned for desires and then consider new and progressive means by which they can become an active part of your life.

**THE BETTER HALF** By Glasbergen  
GLASBERGEN

"I dreamed the tea kettle whistled when you walked by, so you sued it for harassment."

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumble words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUIHM

THIRM

REFUGI

YELDIE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer:

(Answers tomorrow)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 1993 7

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET		
HIGHEST BANK RATE - JORDANIAN DRAPE		
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR CASH		
COMPANY'S NAME		
ABAD BANK	1.0000	1.0000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1.0000	1.0000
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	1.0000	1.0000
THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1.0000	1.0000
THE HEDJAZ BANK	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD BANK	1.0000	1.0000
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1.0000	1.0000
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1.0000	1.0000
BET'EL BANK SALVATION INVESTMENT FUND	1.0000	1.0000
ARMED BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1.0000	1.0000
MILAD BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1.0000	1.0000
JORDAN FRENCH INVESTMENT BANK	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	1.0000	1.0000
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1.0000	1.0000
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITY	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1.0000	1.0000
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1.0000	1.0000
HACHIMIYA EQUITY HOLDING & PARTNERSHIP	1.0000	1.0000
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL HOLDING	1.0000	1.0000
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING	1.0000	1.0000
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMPAGNE RESEAU	1.0000	1.0000
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY	1.0000	1.0000
ATTACHEE COSTS MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS	1.0000	1.0000
JORDAN PLASTIC PACKAGING	1.0000	1.0000
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD INDUSTRIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1.0000	1.0000
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
THE PUBLIC BANK	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
JORDAN RUBBER INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD CENTER FOR PHARMACEUTICALS	1.0000	1.0000
ABAD PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
PAINTS INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
UNIVERSAL INDUSTRIES	1.0000	1.0000
GRAND TOTAL	1.0000	1.0000
NO. OF TRADE SHARES IN A ACTIVE MARKET	1.0000	1.0000
TRADED VALUE IN THE TRADING MARKET	1.0000	1.0000

Financial Jordan Times  
Markets in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

## Foreign Exchange Market Summary (August 23-August 27, 1993)

AMMAN — Trading was light and choppy through most of last week's trading sessions, with a general feeling of lack of short term direction. The intensity of the dollar's decline against the Japanese unit also declined as the Bank of Japan finally managed to curb the yen's rise after persistent and aggressive intervention. The U.S. unit, thus ended the week 0.65 per cent lower against the mark, 0.3 per cent lower against the yen and 0.65 per cent higher against sterling.

Absence of U.S. Fed intervention Monday gave market participants a reason to sell dollars, which caused the U.S. unit to retreat against the yen. Analysts indicated that the speech given by the Japanese Prime Minister on the previous week, in which he pledged to cut the mounting Japanese trade surplus with the U.S., lacked reference to any specific measures to be taken. Others indicated that market participants suspicions, a U.S.-Japan deal, calling for Japan to take concrete measures to reduce its trade surplus with the U.S., arose following the surprisingly aggressive Fed intervention at the end of the previous week, had faded away after the Japanese Prime Minister's speech. The dollar, thus ended at 103.10 yen, its lowest for the week. On the other hand, sales of marks for yen supported the dollar against the mark, as it ended at 1.6845, its highest for the week.

The dollar moved lower against the mark Tuesday. Its decline appeared to be inspired by speculative and technical factors as many traders preferred to stay on the side lines marking uncertainty over Bundesbank plans for German interest rates in the short term during its regular Council meeting Thursday. Analysts also indicated that lack of positive U.S. economic data, in addition to continued purchases of marks by European central banks to replenish their reserves, would inversely affect the U.S. unit following the release of a weak Japanese Leading Indicators report, which fell to 36.4 per cent in June from 41.7 per cent in May.

The dollar moved higher against the mark and other European currencies Wednesday, in response to increased expectations that the Bundesbank might ease Monetary Policy further during its Council meeting the next day. Reports that showed unexpectedly low inflation in most of the western parts of Germany fed expectations of such an action. Other analysts, however expected a tight stance on Monetary Policy as they indicated that inflation is still high in the eastern parts of Germany and that the widening of the bands within the ERM eased the pressure on the Bundesbank to cut interest rates. In the meantime, another batch of U.S. economic reports released that day, showed mixed results. U.S. July Durable Goods Orders fell by 3.8 per cent after a 4.5 per cent gain in June. On the other hand, existing home sales figures rose by 5.4 per cent in July, to a sales number of 3.88 million units from a revised 3.68 million units, in June. The dollar was also higher against the Japanese unit, as it ended at 105 yen, its highest for the week.

On Thursday, the dollar drifted lower against most European currencies, especially the mark, after the Bundesbank maintained its tight stance on Monetary Policy by leaving official interest rates unchanged. In another development, the Bundesbank raised its short term Repo Rate to 6.90 per cent from 6.80 per cent. Although the move was largely technical, traders took it as a signal that the Bundesbank would not allow German interest rates to ease in the near future.

The dollar moved slightly lower against the mark Friday, after

Swiss National Bank President was quoted as saying that short term Swiss rates would not see further declines.

The comments dampened speculation of a subsequent European interest rate cuts in the near future. The dollar also fell against the yen following the release of a report indicating that the Fed might intervene on another sharp drop of the dollar against the Japanese unit. On the other hand, a tiny rise in the Michigan's Consumer Confidence Index to 77.3 per cent in August from 77 per cent in July, failed to affect exchange rates.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 29.8.1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6910	0.6930
Sterling Pound	1.0371	1.0423
Deutsche Mark	0.4150	0.4171
Swiss Franc	0.4707	0.4731
French Franc	0.1185	0.1191
Japanese Yen	0.6654	0.6657
Dutch Guilder	0.3593	0.3711
Swedish Krona	0.0860	0.0864
Italian Lira*	0.0435	0.0435
Belgian Franc	0.01945	0.01955

Per 100

## Taiwan trade gap with Arab Gulf states persists in 1993

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Oil exports by Gulf states to Taiwan have kept the trade balance largely in their favour, official Taiwan figures show.

Taiwan's exports to the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) stood at \$375 million in the first four months of 1993 and imports at \$863 million, creating a surplus of \$488 million in favour of the GCC, according to a report by the Dubai-based Taiwan Trade Centre.

"Taiwan's exports to the Gulf countries have steadily increased over the past few years but the high oil import bill is keeping the trade balance in their favour," the report said.

Oil and gas account for the bulk of Taiwan's imports from GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates

(UAE) — while its exports to them include electric appliances and electronics, garments, watches, furniture and other manufactured products.

Their two-way trade stand at \$3.68 billion in 1992, with the balance registering a surplus of \$1.39 billion in favour of the GCC.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude producer and exporter, remained Taiwan's biggest Gulf commercial partner with trade standing at \$681 million in the first four months of 1993 and around \$2 billion in 1992.

The UAE came second, with trade of \$244 million in the first four months of 1993 and \$761 million in 1992.

Taiwan is the third biggest Asian trade partner of the GCC. Japan's trade with the 12-year-old Gulf alliance peaked at \$35 billion in 1992 and South Korea's at nearly \$12 billion.

In terms of quantity, China was the top watch supplier, exporting 17.6 million watches with a value of \$6.3 million. But in value, Japan topped the list, with 2.7 million watches worth \$49.1 million. Hong Kong, Switzerland and South Korea came in the third, fourth and fifth place.

Vietnam sends workers to Arab states

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam has sent 5,000 workers to foreign jobs since January, mostly in Libya and South Korea, the union newspaper Lao Dong has said.

It said the workers had been sent under bilateral labour agreements and that another 700 would be heading soon to Libya, bringing the number of Vietnamese workers in that North African country to 1,700.

The weekly newspaper said Vietnam expected to send a total of 7,000 workers abroad this year. Before the collapse of the

Soviet Bloc most Vietnamese working abroad went to eastern Europe, but since the Arab countries — mainly Libya, Iraq and Algeria — have been the main destination.

Hanoi liberalised and began encouraging its workers to go abroad in 1991, aiming to reduce the number of unemployed —

Jordan Times  
Tel. 667171

The report showed Iran, another oil rich Gulf nation, also had a surplus in trade with Taiwan, standing at \$9 million in the first four months of 1993 and \$183 million in 1992. But their total trade of \$87 million in the first four months remained a fraction of that with the GCC.

A report published by the UAE daily al Khaleej showed Taiwan was the sixth largest watch exporter to the Gulf main commercial centre of Dubai, supplying 368,000 watches in 1992 with a value of around \$9.5 million.

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## Azeris vote to formalise removal of President Elcibey

BAKU (R) — Azeris voted Sunday in a referendum on fugitive President Abulfaz Elcibey, a poll seen by diplomats as a way of formalising his effective removal from power during an armed rebellion in June.

Tourism was brisk at polling station No. 3 in central Baku, where one-fifth of the local electorate had already cast their votes in the first hour.

Blaming Mr. Elcibey for disastrous defeats in an undeclared war against Armenia over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, a stream of people leaving the booths said they wanted the passionately pro-Turkish nationalist out of their lives.

"I voted against him. Elcibey bears the guilt for everything that has gone wrong. It's he who has let the war drag on for so long and the bloodshed of Azeris continue," said Afed, a well-dressed middle-aged housewife.

"I tell you, 99.9 per cent of people want him to go."

Mr. Elcibey, who fled Baku

last June to escape an armed rebellion and is in hiding in his remote home town, has refused to resign.

A no-confidence vote in Mr. Elcibey in the referendum will pave the way for new presidential elections, which former communist leader Haydar Aliyev said would take place within three months, as stipulated in Azerbaijan's constitution. Mr. Aliyev has stood as acting president since June.

Many Western nations have expressed doubts about a "legally questionable" nationwide vote conducted in a country at war, clogged with refugees and ruled under a state of emergency.

But Mr. Aliyev, the 70-year-old grand old man of Communist-era politics, said he had no choice.

"I have run the country as acting president for more than two months. We can do that on a temporary basis, but we can't go on living like this," he said. "We can't lift the state of emergency now. But given that President

Abulfez Elcibey has been away for so long, we can't not hold a referendum."

The result of the vote is expected some time Monday, but no precise time has been given yet.

The few who admit voting for Mr. Elcibey in June 1992 elections, which the historian and former dissident won 59 per cent of votes, said they felt bitter his government had not kept promises to end the war and improve their lives.

"Last year we all voted for him," said Tariq Kulbanov, a civil engineer who fled the Azeri town of Agdam last month as advancing Armenian forces spread east out of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Aid agencies believe 200,000 people are now on the run from the Armenian advance in a country of seven million.

"We believed in his talk about democracy. But he didn't do anything he promised. He didn't know how to run the country and now it's falling to pieces," Kulbanov said.



Newly elected President of Singapore, Ong Teng Cheong (centre), is greeted by his supporters Sunday soon after he was declared the winner in Singapore presidential elections (AFP photo)

## Government man wins Singapore polls

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singaporeans have elected government nominee and former Deputy Premier Ong Teng Cheong as their first president with executive powers, but left a large anti-establishment vote intact, analysts said Sunday.

Mr. Ong took 58.7 per cent or 952,513 of valid votes cast, according to official returns announced Sunday, but former government Chief Accountant Chua Kim Yeow surprised with a strong showing.

"Chua is a nice man but he really had nothing to offer. His votes must be counted as anti-PAP (People's Action Party) votes," said lawyer Joshua Jeyaretnam, a former opposition

member of parliament (MP) barred from running by a government commission.

Mr. Chua, 67, who confessed the government had urged him to enter the race to provide a contest, polled 670,358 or 41.3 per cent of ballots cast after a low-key campaign the left Singaporeans wondering if he really wanted the job.

He was written off until two days before polling when, in a surprise switch of tactics, he asked voters to back him to ensure that the PAP, which has raised this prosperous commercial hub for more than 30 years, did not amass too much power.

"Do you want the PAP to dominate the presidency as

well?" he said, in the second of two television appearances, alluding to Mr. Ong's position as party chairman and deputy premier, posing to quit to run for the presidency.

Mr. Ong was also endorsed by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Mr. Goh's predecessor Singapore patriarch Lee Kuan Yew and the PAP itself, although Mr. Goh said he could work with Mr. Chua if the retired civil servant won.

Mr. Lee had mooted the revamped presidency in the mid-1980s, saying it was necessary to guard against the chance of a profligate government winning power and squandering Singapore's huge reserves now totalling some \$43 billion.

## France suspends aid to Central Africa

BANGUI (AFP) — Vote counting continued Sunday in the Central African Republic as France warned that its co-operation with the country would only resume if a bid to alter the electoral code was withdrawn, French Foreign Ministry officials said.

Government officials say the Khmer Rouge has been trying to arrange round-table discussions with the government and head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk in the North Korean capital Pyongyang next week.

Prince Ranariddh told reporters that because the problem was a Cambodian one, any such talks should take place in Phnom Penh, but it was up to Prince Sihanouk, his father, to decide.

"In my opinion we should await his return to Cambodia on the 15th of September to have a round table, if the Khmer Rouge respects our position," he said.

Prince Ranariddh said Hun Sen, his partner in leading the interim administration, had advised him that before agreeing to any talks they should insist on Khmer Rouge compliance with government demands that it dismantle its army and open up its zones of control.

"If those conditions are fulfilled there is no problem to accept to put them in the national army and as advisors to the government," Prince Ranariddh said.

The Khmer Rouge, whose revolutionary rule in the 1970s killed a million Cambodians, is demanding such an advisory role despite boycotting U.N.-run elections in May and refusing to implement Cambodia's 1991 peace agreement.

It called for urgent talks after the government army launched big attacks earlier this month that drove the guerrillas from strongholds in the northwest.

Prince Ranariddh, Mr. Hun Sen and other senior politicians are due to fly to see Prince Sihanouk in Pyongyang Monday, taking with them a draft of a

account the spirit of consensus" in the commission, which is headed by a member of the opposition, and that as he had acted "without asking the advice of the commission's members, we did not feel we had to obey."

"In principle, there is nothing to stop the Supreme Court from publishing the results as planned" on Aug. 30, Mr. Loudege said.

Early Sunday a senior French diplomat, Michel Lunven, told Mr. Kolingba that Paris condemned the measures and insisted on an "immediate" restoration of the democratic process, the French Foreign Ministry said here.

## U.S. satellites said aiding Angola army

JOHANNESBURG (R) — U.S. spy satellites are providing Angola's air force with intelligence, dramatically increasing the accuracy of its attacks on UNITA rebels, according to diplomats and military analysts.

"The Americans ... have been furnishing the Angolan government with such information since soon after (U.S. President Bill) Clinton switched sides," a diplomat told Reuters, quoting well-placed sources in the Angolan military.

Military analysts said government forces were fighting with a new sense of purpose and had achieved several successes during the past few weeks, including hard-hitting air attacks on UNITA's Huambo Headquarters and an air-supported ground thrust towards the city, the rebels' central highlands stronghold.

Manuel Augusto, head of the Angolan diplomatic mission to South Africa, said he was not in a position to confirm or deny the

satellite reports. U.S. diplomats said they did not wish to comment.

The main reason for our success is the reorganisation of the army. We are doing what we are doing without outside help. Stories of U.S. spy satellites could be part of an attempt by UNITA to explain its setbacks," Mr. Augusto told Reuters.

A Luanda-based diplomat said he believed the Angolan Air Force had used U.S. satellite intelligence to pinpoint and destroy a large UNITA relief convoy between Menongue and Cuito in Bié province, 150 kilometres from Huambo.

"The air attack was very deadly," the diplomat said. "As a result of it, UNITA was unable to reinforce its men at the besieged city of Cuito."

Meanwhile, three people were killed by unidentified gunmen who ambushed relief lorries straggling behind a U.N. aid convoy in Angola's Benguela province, an aid official said Sunday.

World Food Programme (WFP) official Mercedes Sayagues said three lorries were hit by gunfire near Catende Saturday after dropping behind the main 75-truck convoy delivering food to war refugees in Cubal and Caimbambo.

"Three drivers were killed and one was wounded. One of the trucks was partly destroyed," Harare-based Sayagues told Reuters by telephone.

Mr. Sayagues said she did not know who attacked the convoy which was travelling through an area recently recaptured by government forces from UNITA rebels.

"Several vehicles dropped out of the convoy with punctured tyres. After the repairs they left Catende without permission of the Angolan military to try to catch up," she said. The WFP has been moving thousands of tonnes of food aid in trucks since UNITA attacks on relief aircraft forced it to suspend mercy flights to Angolan inland cities.

## Jackson aide cites \$20 million 'silence' demand

LOS ANGELES (R) — A lawyer demanded \$20 million from Michael Jackson to buy a child's silence on sexual abuse claims, the pop superstar's private investigator said in a published interview Sunday.

Investigator Anthony Pellicano said he countered with a \$350,000 offer to the lawyer for a Beverly Hills dentist who threatened to make public sexual-abuse allegations by his young son against the singer, now in Singapore on a world tour.

He said the man, dubbed "dentalist to the star," wanted the money to become a Hollywood screenwriter.

Mr. Pellicano said the father and lawyer threatened to accuse Jackson of child molestation and to make those charges in court documents related to a parental custody battle unless the money was paid, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

The report followed confirmation from official sources that police were taking a closer look at claims from Jackson's camp that the abuse allegations grew out of the father's failed attempt to blackmail the entertainer for millions of dollars.

Jackson and his entourage arrived in Singapore Saturday for his next round of concerts and was joined by longtime friend, actress Elizabeth Taylor, who rushed to his side to lend support.

He has denied molesting the 13-year-old boy, and police have

so far come up with no physical evidence to support the filing of criminal charges against the singer.

Mr. Pellicano told the Times that the father and his son met Jackson and the private investigator at a southern California hotel on the night of Aug. 4.

At that meeting, Mr. Pellicano said the father demanded that Jackson set him up as a screenwriter and accused Jackson of molesting his son, the Times reported.

Jackson did not respond during that meeting, and the father stormed out of the room, Mr. Pellicano told the Times.

Later the same night, Mr. Pellicano said he countered with a \$350,000 offer to the lawyer for a Beverly Hills dentist who threatened to make public sexual-abuse allegations by his young son against the singer, now in Singapore on a world tour.

Mr. Pellicano said he refused that offer and the next day told the father's lawyer that he would pay the father \$350,000 as a film development deal, according to the newspaper.

"I was trying to set him up with the extortion," Mr. Pellicano was quoted as saying. "I wanted to see if he would take it."

Instead the father took his son to a therapist on Aug. 17, and the child reported a history of alleged sexual abuse by Jackson, touching off a criminal investigation.

Jackson's brother Jermaine

was quoted by a British Sunday paper as saying he is innocent and his family believes him.

Jermaine also criticised their sister Latoya, who was quoted earlier this week as saying she had warned Michael about his friendships with young boys.

"Latoya has gone too far this time," the Mirror quoted Jermaine as saying. "She didn't speak to him about that."

He added: "They don't speak and haven't spoken for years."

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Meanwhile, Jackson marked his 35th birthday in Singapore Sunday without apparent ceremony ahead of the first of two sell-out concerts.

Jackson arrived in Singapore Saturday evening on the second leg of his Dangerous tour.

"Michael Jackson has no particular programme or schedule Sunday other than his performance," said Elaine Au, spokeswoman for the promoters, adding: "We did not make any special arrangements for his

birthday."

"He said soon after his arrival that he wanted to have a good rest as he was very tired after his

## China has 800 million TV viewers

PEKING (AFP) — Two-thirds of China's population, or 800 million people, watch television, according to a new survey. The figure was 200 million more than the late 1980s, the Xinhua News Agency quoted a China Central Television (CCTV) survey as finding. The survey found that one in five Chinese own a television set, up from one in 400 when the country's reform and opening policies were started in 1978, Xinhua said. It said the most-watched television programme was the main evening news. There were 41,000 satellite earth stations, an 800-fold increase from 1985, the survey said. The news media is still tightly controlled by the Communist Party, but programming has been diversified along with the acceleration of market reforms this year. Private satellite dishes have also made it easier for Chinese to get around government censorship.

## British royals, at turn of century, used narcotics

ABERDEEN, Scotland (R) — The British royal family turned to cocaine and heroin for medicinal purposes in around the turn of the century, according to pharmacy records. British newspapers seized on a report in a Scottish magazine that Queen Victoria and other royals ordered cocaine and heroin-based remedies when holidaying at their Balmoral estate. Records from 1897 to 1914 from a long-closed pharmacy near Balmoral showed royals and others, including a young Winston Churchill, ordered items such as Belladonna and cocaine lozenges to be "sucked occasionally" for a variety of maladies. Such drugs were still regularly prescribed in the early part of the century, before being made illegal in 1920. "Opium was a common addictive drug at the time," said a spokesman for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. "It could be bought in the grocer's shop and cheaper than alcohol."

## Man awarded compensation for failed vasectomy

WELLINGTON (AP) — A tribunal has awarded \$8,000 dollars (\$4,000) to a man whose wife became pregnant after his vasectomy failed. The man, whose name was not made public, had the vasectomy in 1976. After his wife gave birth in 1988, he filed for damages. The New Zealand Press Association reported that the man told the accident compensation appeal authority he underwent the procedure because he and his wife already had several children. Doctors assured him at the time of the operation that he would become sterile. In a decision handed down this week, the authority deemed the failed vasectomy a "medical misadventure," or an accident for which no one was to blame. The government will pay the man, who has since undergone a second vasectomy, through a taxpayers' accident fund.

## Bar fined \$200 for not charging for water

CHIETI, Italy (AFP) — The owner of an Italian bar has been fined \$200 for damages. The New Zealand Press Association reported that the man told the accident compensation appeal authority he underwent the procedure because he and his wife already had several children. Doctors assured him at the time of the operation that he would become sterile. In a decision handed down this week, the authority deemed the failed vasectomy a "medical misadventure," or an accident for which no one was to blame. The government will pay the man, who has since undergone a second vasectomy, through a taxpayers' accident fund.

## Colombian drug cartel horse castrated

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Enemies of fugitive drug boss Pablo Escobar who abducted his brother Roberto's million-dollar horse returned it castrated Saturday. The horse was found tied to a tree in Medellin, the base of Escobar's multimillion-dollar cocaine syndicate, police said. A sign near the animal read: "Terrorists, we return to you the horse." Roberto Escobar and brother." "Terrorists" — "earthquake" in English — was once priced at about \$1 million, but reduced to \$200,000. The animal was stolen last month from a ranch belonging to Roberto, who is in jail. Pablo Escobar has been on the run since last year, when he escaped from a luxurious prison. He had surrendered in June 1991 to authorities in exchange for a light jail sentence. Police blamed the horse abduction and castration on the people persecuted by Pablo Escobar, an anti-Escobar group that has killed at least 50 of his associates and destroyed several of his properties.

# Sports

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## Miller wins gymnastics title

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — All-around U.S. champion Shannon Miller added event titles in the uneven bars and floor exercise Saturday night in the final session of the National Gymnastics Championships.

Yet the 16-year-old world champion and Olympic silver medalist said she still wasn't satisfied. "I came today to try to do the best I could in every event," Miller said. "I did pretty good, but I still need to work on a new vault."

Miller, who easily won the all-around title over Dominique Dawes, lost the vaulting crown to her Saturday night. Dawes also captured the balance beam.

"Coming in second gave me a lot of motivation for today," Dawes said. "Shannon and I get along pretty well. (But) if one of us gets ahead, then the other one just has to work harder."

Earlier Saturday, John Roethlisberger added a national still rings championship to his third all-around gold.

Miller won the bars with a near-perfect 9.837 routine capped by a ramrod-straight landing. Her floor exercise, highlighted by a half-dozen flips culminating in a backward somersault, earned a 9.72 score.

Dawes, who stepped out of bounds, finished just 12-hundredths of a point behind. Kerri Strug, 15, claimed second with a 9.8 on the bars, and was

third in floor exercise.

Dawes, 16, scored 9.581 in the vault to edge Miller by 19-hundredths of a point. She had an easier time on the beam, earning a 9.687 for a routine featuring four forward flips and a spinning dismount.

Keller Davis, 15, was second with 9.437 and Miller settled for third after slipping at the beginning of her routine.

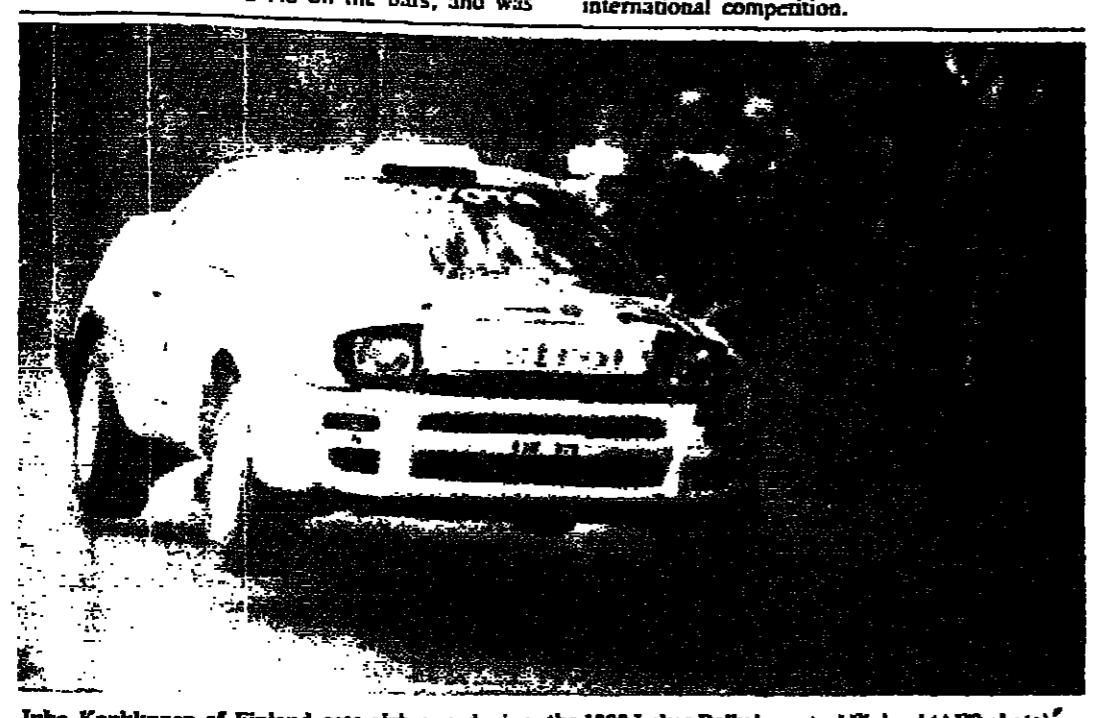
In winning the rings gold, Roethlisberger executed double twists and two reverse somersaults into a perfect landing and a 9.612 score, edging runnerup Chainey Umphrey by 12-hundredths of a point.

Roethlisberger did it with a sore ankle, injured during Thursday's optional competition.

Chris Waller, 24, won his third consecutive national pommel horse championship, using a strong handspring and flawless landing to earn a 9.275 score.

Roethlisberger's strong performances in the horse and rings on Thursday helped him win the all-around crown. Umphrey finished second all-around and Scott Keswick, winless in the apparatus round Saturday, was third.

The Coca-Cola-sponsored meet selects 14 men and 20 women for the national squad, which will represent the United States in domestic and international competition.



Juha Kankkunen of Finland gets airborne during the 1000 Lakes Rally in central Finland (AFP photo)

## Kankkunen captures 1000 Rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (AP) —

Juha Kankkunen (Toyota) won his second 1000 Lakes Rally in his own neck of the woods Sunday.

Kankkunen, who virtually led from start to finish, edged out his Finnish compatriot Ari Vatanen (Subaru) by .47 seconds and France's Didier Auriol (Toyota) by 2 min. 10sec.

The 34-year-old triple world champion kept ahead of his two rivals by intelligent tactics, and only Vatanen, who nosed past of him by three seconds on Saturday, was ever ahead of him during the race.

But the 34-year-old from Laukaa, a village a few kilometres from Jyvaskyla, soon showed who was boss by imme

ediately regaining the lead. Kankkunen also consolidated his lead in the World Drivers' Championship which he heads with 91 points. Auriol is second on 71 points with Frenchman Francois Delecour, absent from this race, third on 70.

But in the constructors race, Toyota heads the list with 131 points, ahead of Ford (111 pts) and Lancia (67 pts).

Yet with four rounds of the World Championship left to run, in Australia, San Remo, Spain and Great Britain, the race for the 1993 championship is far from over.

Vatanen, in his Subaru Impreza again showed his immense

talent as he relentlessly snapped on the heels of Kankkunen. But during Sunday morning, he had to concede defeat.

Home supporters were disappointed to see Markku Alen career off the road Friday morning during the first special stage.

And last year's winner Auriol had a chance till Saturday night when a bad landing after a jump left his car badly damaged, putting an end to his tide hopes.

Though Finland's Tommi Kankinen held on for fourth spot in his Lancia, he, like the Mitsubishi Lancers of Sweden's Kenneth Eriksson and Armin Schwarz of Germany, were never in the hunt for the premier prize.

## Ullrich, Van Moorsel victorious

OSLO (AP) — German teenager Jan Ullrich took the lead

with about 200 metres left and held on to win the men's amateur road race in the World Cycling Championships Saturday.

Ullrich finished the 184-kilometre (114-mile) race in four hours, 13 minutes and nine seconds for an average speed of 43.610 kph (27.1 mph).

Kaspars Ozers of Latvia, who led briefly coming into the final stretch in downtown Oslo, was second and Lukas Tesar of Czech Republic third, both clocking the same time as the winner.

Leontine Van Moorsel of Holland edged Jeannie Longo-Ciprelli-Longo of France in another sprint finish to win the women's 92-kilometre (57-mile) road race.

Van Moorsel, 23, the 1991 world champion, covered the race in 2:21:20. Longo was right behind in a razor-thin finish, failing to win the women's title for an unprecedented fifth time.

Laura Charameda of the United States nipped Michela Fanini of Italy for the bronze medal. Both finished four seconds behind.

It was the first time the 29-year-old Charameda made the medal podium in a championship.

Van Moorsel, who broke through in 1990 when she captured the 3,000-metre pursuit world championship title, said after the race that the course was good for her and that "I now have a little more power in my legs."



Holland's Leontine Van Moorsel jubilates as she crosses the finish line before Jeannie Longo-Ciprelli of France to win the women's World Road Race Championships in Oslo (AFP photo)

**TODAY**

**CONCORD**  
Last Action Hero  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
  
**America Shikabika**  
Arabic  
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15

**PLAZA**  
Adel Imam  
in  
**Wad Sayyed Al Shaghaf**  
play  
(Arabic)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

**PHILADELPHIA**  
**Franky and Johnny**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
On Thursday and Friday special show for  
children at 11 a.m. a festival of cartoons

**Nabil Al Mashini Theatre**  
presents a play entitled:  
**Al Ilm Nuron**  
A popular political comedy  
Actors: Abder Issa, Daoud Jalale,  
Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali  
in addition to other comedians  
Every night at 8:15  
Tickets are sold all day

**ANJAN THEATRE**  
Returns to you Thursday Aug.  
26 in the play:  
**Arab Summit Conference**



## Sabatini drops out against Sanchez Vicarie

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Gabriela Sabatini complaining of nausea, retired after five games of the second set giving Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain a 6-3, 4-1 triumph on the final day of the \$200,000 Elizabeth Arden WTA Challenge Saturday night.

The victory assured a team of three Europeans and one South African of the overall championship and the \$125,000 first prize in the unique four-day event.

Four players from North and south America will split \$75,000.

In Commack, New York, fifth-seeded Michael Chang beat top-seeded Steffi Edberg and unseeded Marc Rosset defeated No. 7 Goran Ivanisevic Saturday in the semifinals of the \$300,000 Hunter Cup.

Chang beat Edberg in the ATP

championship final at Cincinnati earlier this month in three sets.

"I was very surprised the way

things went," Chang said. "Everyting seemed to go my way. I was able to play solid tennis while he seemed a little frustrated."

Edberg still leads their head-to-head series 13-5, but the one-sided result left some doubts for Edberg as he starts his U.S. Open defense.

"Michael had a good day and I didn't play my best," Edberg said. "Physically I had recovered from (Friday)

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 1993

when I got dehydrated and was dying out there."

"But a pain, I had to come back from that and I didn't serve my best. The little wind was tough at first for me. I'll put this behind me and I'll be ready Monday when the Open begins. This has happened before. I'd worry a little if I was Michael and playing my best tennis now. You have to have a little left going into the Open."

Chang, who was beaten by Edberg in an epic five-hour semi-final match in last year's Open, has won 5 of his last 17 matches, all on hardcourt.

"I'd like to continue this into the Open," he said. "I'm not concerned because I hope I haven't played my best tennis yet. I hope to get better in the Open."

Rosset, ranked 30th in the world, was 10 minutes quicker in beating Ivanisevic 6-3, 6-3 in 59 minutes.

Playing in temperatures that make 10 degrees Fahrenheit (33 Celsius) along with a gusty breeze, Chang was much steadier as Edberg never reached break point against his service.

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What do you bid now?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.9—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.10—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.11—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.12—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.13—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.14—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.15—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

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Q.17—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.18—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.19—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.20—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.21—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

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Q.36—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.37—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.38—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

## Bosnia partition plan hits snags

SARAJEVO (AFP) — A proposed plan to carve up Bosnia into three ethnically-based mini-states appeared doomed Sunday as the Bosnian and Croat leaderships demanded modifications and the Serbs threatened to withdraw already offered concessions.

The plan, brokered by European Community (EC) mediator Lord Owen and his U.N. counterpart Thorvald Stoltenberg, was to be discussed Monday by Bosnia's three warring parties at a new round of negotiations in Geneva.

Over the weekend, representatives from each side met separately to vote on the plan with the Serbs approving it, the Croats attaching conditions to its acceptance and the Muslims pressing for major changes.

Bosnian Parliament speaker Miro Lazovic told a press conference Sunday that the Geneva plan could not be approved in its present form "but could serve as a basis for the continuation of the talks."

He said the Bosnian delegation to the peace talks would ask that substantial changes be made to the plan. He did not provide specifics on the changes.

Meanwhile the country's collegial presidency, comprising Serbs, Croats and Muslims, was holding its own meeting on the issue Sunday.

Two of its members, Miro Lasic, a Croat, and Mirko Perjanovic, a Serb, said earlier that the presidency, "acting as a parliament," would meet to take "the final decision."

Later Saturday, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic warned Bosnian lawmakers against a conditional acceptance of the Geneva plan, threatening to withdraw already offered concessions if they did so.

"Imposing conditions on the Geneva plan is equivalent to rejecting it," he told a press conference after his parliament accepted the plan by 55 votes in favour, 14 against with three abstentions.

"It was agreed in Geneva that the concessions we made at the last minute provided a solution. If they are not considered as a solution we withdraw them," he added, saying the plan was "a last chance" for the Muslims.

## Extremists seek to terrorise military justice — judge

CAIRO (AP) — A military judge said Sunday eight Muslim extremists attacked the car of an army general in July in an attempt to terrorise the military judicial system which has sentenced 22 militants to death.

Major General Abdul Moneim Nafea was reading out the indictment against eight defendants, four of whom are at large. It was the first official confirmation that a military car, which escaped unharmed, was the main aim of the July 18 attack. Two gunmen and two bystanders were killed in the shooting.

"The aim was stopping one of the institutions of the state from carrying out its duties," Gen. Nafea said. The defendants are also accused of joining an illegal group aimed at overthrowing the government, killing two men and attempting to kill eight others including the three occupants of the military car.

The car was carrying Maj. Gen. Osman Shabeen, commander of Cairo's central military area. But police sources at the time said the attackers thought it belonged to Maj. Gen. Ahmad Abdullah, head of the military courts, who usually takes the same route.

President Hosni Mubarak started referring the extremists to military courts last year to ensure the speedy trials of the radicals who have been waging a bloody campaign to turn Egypt into a Muslim theocracy.

Twenty-two extremists have been sentenced to death by the military courts. Fourteen have been executed and the rest are at large.

Al Gamma Al Islamiyah, one of the main extremist groups in Egypt, claimed responsibility for the attack on the military car, saying it was to avenge the hanging of five radicals the day before.

The four defendants on trial in the Red Mountain military barracks courthouse north of Cairo denied the charge during Sunday's three-hour session and the court was recessed until Sept. 7.

The foreign press have been banned from attending this trial. Journalists working for Egyptian newspapers are allowed to attend.

Other military trials have been open to the press.

In a related development, military sources said that a second batch of 65 defendants belonging to the Vanguards of Conquest extremist group go on trial next Saturday. More than 700 members of the group are involved in

He was speaking after the Bosnian deputies, meeting in Sarajevo, voted to carry on with the Geneva talks and to demand substantial changes in the proposed plan.

The Bosnian leadership has repeatedly pressed for changes to the maps outlining the boundaries of the three proposed mini-states that are to be carved out of the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The self-styled Bosnian Croat parliament also gave conditional acceptance to the plan after meeting on the issue Saturday.

Approving a motion by Bosnian-Croat leader Mate Boban, the assembly said it was "ready to accept" the plan, provided that the republic's two other warring parties — the Muslim-led Bosnian government and the Bosnian Serbs — also approved the draft.

However, the resolution demanded that parts of central Bosnia be ceded by the Bosnian government, and that the Croats be given a swathe of territory to link two proposed Croat areas in the northeastern Bosanska Posavina region.

The current proposed plan would give the Serbs, who accounted for 33 per cent of the pre-war population according to the 1991 census and who now control 70 per cent of Bosnia, 52 per cent of the territory.

The Muslims, who made up 48 per cent of the pre-war population would get 30 per cent of the territory, the Croats who accounted for 19 per cent of the pre-war population would retain 17 per cent of the country.

Rebel Serbs of Mount Ozran in northern Bosnia plan to snub the Geneva peace plan agreed by their leadership and create their own autonomous enclave, a local official told AFP Sunday.

Under the proposed plan dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina, the region would come under Muslim jurisdiction.

"If we cannot be part of the Serb republic (self-proclaimed on 70 per cent of Bosnian territory), we will create an autonomous enclave. We will not be controlled by Muslims and are ready to fight," said Thionir Gligoric, president of the Ozran regional council.



NOMINATION: Leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Benazir Bhutto (right) chats with a civil judge of district session court in Lahore. Mrs. Bhutto has submitted her nomination papers before a civil judge for the forthcoming election of the national assembly (AFP photo)

## Rebels launch counter-assault against Khartoum's forces

KERWA, Sudan (AFP) — The rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has launched a counter-offensive against Sudanese government forces and has halted their southern advance, rebel sources announced here Sunday.

The SPLA claim that an advance by government forces towards rebel positions in the now-deserted town of Kaya had been halted has been confirmed by relief agencies helping refugees fleeing the fighting.

"We have not heard of any fighting in the past 10 or so days," Jasmin Krischer, a doctor in the Dutch branch of Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) said.

Refugees fleeing the fighting also said that for one week now, the Sudanese air force's high-flying Antonov bomber planes had stopped aerial raids on rebel positions near the Sudan-Uganda border.

About 60,000 refugees have crossed into northern Uganda district of Koboko, while 47,000 more are displaced inside Sudan around the border.

Unconfirmed reports said that the population was herded into this remote village which lies about 160 kilometres from the regional capital Juba by a contingent of SPLA fighters that instructed the population not to seek refuge in Uganda.

Rebel sources told AFP that John Garang's faction of the SPLA had resisted the capture of Kaya with a heavy deployment of troops there, and an official of one of the aid agencies said rebel forces were now advancing towards Morobo, a village 55 kilometres north of Kaya captured by government forces three weeks ago.

The 47,000 displaced inside Sudan have not sought refuge in Uganda, despite pathetic condi-

tions they live in. Virtually the whole population lives under trees in the plush tropical vegetation.

Hundreds of men would be seen constructing huts, which are badly needed at this time when rains fall almost everyday.

"Only God knows how we manage to keep alive. It rains on us every day," 60-year-old Kosiya Obior, whose 12-year-old daughter lay under a tree suffering from malaria, told AFP.

Asked why he did not wish to seek refuge across in Uganda, he said: "We have been told to stay here," refusing to answer any more questions.

An official of the John Garang's SPLA humanitarian wing, Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (SRRA), Phillip Choi, denied that the population was being kept against its will by the SPLA.

"You can see there are no SPLA fighters holding anyone hostage here," he told AFP in reaction to earlier reports that heavily armed SPLA forces were holding hostage thousands of displaced people by using them as a human shield against bombardment of Sudanese government forces.

But relief agencies and U.N. officials said they believed the SPLA leadership had refused to allow the population to cross into Uganda.

"Pake it from me that the population has been directly or indirectly refused to cross into Uganda by the SPLA," an official told AFP.

The SRRA official maintained that the population had lived together in three camps east of the Nile and considered themselves as one family.

"We consider ourselves as one family. To move or not to move can only be a collective decision," he said, explaining that the ex-

perience they had in Ethiopia had taught them not to be keen about seeking refuge outside Sudan.

Thousands of Sudanese refugees faced hostility when Mengistu Haile Mariam's regime collapsed in neighbouring Ethiopia.

Relief officials pointed out, however, that Dinka people could be reluctant to join other tribes, notably the Kokus, now in refugee camps in Koboko, 54 kilometres northeast of the regional capital Arua, because of ethnic animosity between the two tribes.

Some refugees in Koboko told AFP that the Colonel Garang's Dinkas had looted their property in Kaya and had also raped their women, a claim since confirmed by relief officials who have said that SPLA's Dinka-dominated troops had committed atrocities in areas around Kaya.

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and relief agencies are worried that thousands of the displaced people in Kerwa could die from disease because of the overcrowding and shortage of food and medical services.

"We cannot assist you unless you cross into Uganda and declare yourselves refugees," frustrated UNHCR Representative in Uganda Ahmad Farah told a crowd of the displaced population that had gathered at Kerwa school, where classes are normally conducted under mango trees.

Earlier reports that the 47,000 people were inside Ugandan territory have been dismissed by Uganda's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Kirunda Kivejinja.

In a statement released this weekend, Mr. Kivejinja said that displaced population was in Sudanese territory and also denied that Sudanese fighter planes had bombed Ugandan territory.

According to accounts from various officials, the autonomy plan would mean that:

— In Gaza and Jericho, the Israeli army would withdraw from population centres to security locations.

— Palestinians would be given full control over their internal affairs.

— Israel would maintain control over entry points to the autonomous areas, including the bridge linking Jordan with the West Bank.

— Israel would also remain in charge of Jewish settlements.

— Negotiations on problematic issues, such as the status of Jerusalem, would be postponed until talks on the final status of the occupied lands are to begin — within two to three years.

No changes on the ground are expected for months.

Israel Radio said that in exchange for a possible Israeli recognition of the PLO would renounce "terrorism" and delete references to its charter which Israel interprets supporting the Jewish state's destruction.

Suleiman Najjar, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, said in a telephone interview from Tunis that the Palestinians had already recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced "terrorism" in its charter which Israel interprets supporting the Jewish state's destruction.

The IAF's reaction to the unilateral government changes of the election law was severely criticised by other opponents of electoral changes who charged the "Islamist never represented true opposition."

In commenting upon reports that Islamists had struck a deal with the government in order not to boycott the elections, Dr. Akaileh said: "The government would not have changed the election law if it had signed deals with the IAF."

The IAF last week decided against boycotting the elections during a meeting of its "shura" council, the highest decision-making authority of the IAF. The 120-member council voted 85 to 16 for taking part in the elections. Nineteen members did not attend the meeting.

The IAF's call for lifting the sanctions against Iraq, saying Baghdad would "win the battle the West is launching against it by resorting to Islam, national reconciliation and the initiation of shura and democratic reforms."

"The solution lies inside Iraq," he said.

Dr. Farhan also called for terminating the peace process with Israel and expressed opposition to proposals for confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian entity as well as the Gaza-Jericho option.

Arab resolutions to provide aid are notoriously hard to turn into cash.

The official had said the remaining \$100 million in aid would be provided by other Arab countries, including Egypt and Syria, with each disbursing \$10 million.

Arab resolutions to provide aid are notoriously hard to turn into cash.

The council, in a statement it issued after its meeting Thursday night, said it took the decision because "the positive results of contesting the elections outweigh the negative ones and to guard

## Iraqi team heads for U.N. talks after delay

AMMAN (Agencies) — An Iraqi delegation left Sunday for talks at the U.N. headquarters in New York after the U.S. government offered to give them security escorts, an Iraqi embassy spokesman said.

The Iraqis balked at the trip on Saturday when the Iraqi government charged that the Americans had "abandoned their responsibilities to provide protection."

The delegation, which is to discuss Iraqi weapons control and U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, is led by General Amir Rashid, head of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Authority.

At midday Sunday, Gen. Rashid's team boarded a Royal Jordanian airlines flight bound for New York, Iraqi embassy spokesman Adel Ibrahim said.

"The problems that delayed the team's departure yesterday (Saturday) have now been removed," Mr. Ibrahim said.

He said U.S. authorities "agreed to provide the team with security escorts as is customary for all official delegates visiting the U.S."

There was no immediate U.S. confirmation of Mr. Ibrahim's account.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said U.N. Secretary

General Boutros Ghali intervened for the United States to ensure the delegation's security before it left for New York.

The New York talks set to begin Tuesday will focus on implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 715 calling for long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons programmes.

The talks follow a crisis in July over arms monitoring that was defused when Baghdad agreed to the installation of surveillance cameras at two missile test sites, which have stayed off pending the New York meeting.

The talks with the United Nations are part of an accord struck last month during a visit to Baghdad by Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. commission scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The first was when his wife agreed to marry him. Speaking after returning safely to terra firma, he seemed philosophical about his chances of repeating the feat. "I'd do it again, but not today," he said.

**British transplant girl may need new organs**

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (R) — A five-year-old British girl whose life was saved by a transplant of her liver and small intestine last year may need another operation involving several organs, doctors said. A spokeswoman for children's hospital of Pittsburgh, where Laura Davies received the two organs on June 10, 1992, said Laura's doctors were concerned about a persistent weakness of the small intestine. The girl has been placed on a transplant waiting list for a multi-visceral organ transplant, which could involve any or all of a series of organs including the liver, small intestine, large intestine, stomach, kidney and pancreas.

Israelis describe it as a five-year dry run that will test whether Palestinians can run their own affairs and prevent attacks on Israel.

The opposition Likud Party called for a special session of the parliament Monday despite the summer recess for a no confidence vote, a frequent protest tactic.

Leading rabbis among the Jewish settlers in the occupied territories said in a statement that the autonomy agreement was "high treason" and warned that settlers might use violence to thwart it.

In a telephone interview from the border strip of Lebanon where he has been based since last month, the spokesman for Hamas called the agreement a dangerous matter that will destroy Palestinian rights.

This agreement will not prevent the Islamic generations now or in the future fighting to restore their rights in Haifa, Acre, Lydda, Jaffa and Jerusalem," he said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Sunday he was hopeful about the 11th round of Middle East peace talks.

"I'm hopeful," Mr. Clinton said as he left a church service Sunday.

Mr. Clinton added, "we've been working at it (negotiations) steadily for some time now."

Commenting on Friday's meeting between Mr. Christopher and Mr. Peres, Mr. Clinton said, "I'm obviously glad the meeting occurred but we've still got a long way to go."

Their discussion previewed ideas that will be developed next week when the Middle East talks resume in Washington," State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said.

Norway's Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst said Sunday that he attended the secret talks between Mr. Peres and Mr. Christopher.

Mr. Holst disappeared from Norway on Thursday, a week after an official visit by Mr. Peres to Norway. The foreign ministry had refused to say where he had gone.

Mr. Holst took part in the meeting with Mr. Christopher and Mr. Peres in California. Norwegian foreign ministry spokesman Ingvar Havnen said, "Holst has played an active role in the peace process."

Israel, the United States and Norway were the only countries represented at the talks near San Francisco on Friday, the ministry said.

In an interview with Norway's NTB news agency, Mr. Holst declined to give any details of what was discussed at the California talks for why he attended.

"Out of regard to the partners I cannot comment," he said.

In Washington, U.S. officials gave no details